

TING

THE TIMES

No 62,353

FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1986

25p

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Moving pictures
Flat TV seen of the future
that you hang on the wall

Moscow days
Revealed: Russia in real life

First time skiing
Surviving the slippery slopes
— and insuring against a fall

Cup weekend
FA Cup preview, plus rugby's John Player and Welsh cup ties

Portfolio

Four readers shared the £2,000 Times Portfolio competition yesterday. Miss Elizabeth Potter of Worcester; Mr P. Beags of London; Mr George Hart of Ipswich; and Mrs Jane Perry of Bletchley, Bucks, each won £500. Portfolio list, page 16; how to play, Information Service, back page.

Militant to face assault allegations

Allegations of assault and intimidation against Labour Party members opposed to Militant Tendency have been made to the party's inquiry into the Liverpool branch, with evidence that Militant opponents have been prevented from counting council seats and candidates have been forced to take a "loyalty oath."

Ship sinks

Two unidentified crew members died and another is missing after the British-registered freighter Stanley Bay sank off Spain's north coast in a storm.



Libya warned

The US, in what appeared to be a warning to Libya, notified civilian air traffic officials that US Navy fighters will be conducting operations off the Libyan coast next week.

Irish jockeys refuse to race

Six jockeys have been reported to the Irish National Hunt steeplechase committee after refusing to ride in a novice chase at Limerick. They had complained about the dangerous nature of the track, but their objection was rejected.

Merger off

The Ladbroke and Granada groups have called off merger talks. The chairman of Granada, Mr Alex Bernstein, said: "We simply couldn't agree terms."

Aids rebuke

Some patients infected with Aids are being shunned by doctors, dentists and nurses through fear and ignorance of the disease, a leading specialist says.

Costly jobs

Fourteen jobs have been bought at a new Coca-Cola canning factory in Northern Ireland at a cost to the taxpayer of more than £60,000 each, a government report reveals.

Posgate sues

Mr Ian Posgate is suing the board of his former agency at Lloyd's of London, the insurance market, for defamation after his dismissal two weeks ago.

Home News	2-4	Motoring	25
Overseas	5-8	Obituary	14
Arts	14-19	Parliament	4
Business	16-21	Science	14
Court	14	Sport reports	28
Crosswords	16, 28	Sport	21-24
Diary	12	TV & Radio	27
Features	10-12	Theatre	25
Law Report	24	Weather	25
Leading articles and letters	13	Wills	14

Government shaken at public humiliation over Westland leak

Outraged Tory MPs call on Brittan to quit

Conservative backbenchers increased the pressure on Mr Leon Brittan to resign last night, accusing him of putting the Prime Minister in an impossible position.

The Government was shaken by the news that the Prime Minister had not been told Mr Brittan had authorized a critical Westland leak.

Westland's share price soared as two mystery buyers in the stock market were prepared to pay more than 150p. Two days ago the shares were 90p.

Mr Neil Kinnock compared the controversy to the start of the Watergate scandal which brought about President Nixon's downfall.

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Pressure on Mr Leon Brittan to resign became even more intense last night as Conservative backbenchers accused him of letting the party down and putting the Prime Minister into an impossible position.

The renewed clamour for his resignation came after Mrs Thatcher had earlier revealed in the Commons that a critical leak during the Westland affair had been personally authorized by Mr Brittan.

At a private meeting of the backbench 1922 Committee well over half the 20 speakers called for the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to stand down and to ease the crisis into which the Government had been plunged.

The party meeting, packed and tense, rallied behind the Prime Minister, some of them praising her performance in the Commons House.

But there was negligible support for Mr Brittan, and any member who dared to sound a sympathetic note was left in no

doubt it had not been the right thing to say. Some MPs even announced that they would not be supporting the Government in Monday's debate in protest at his conduct.

Mr Barry Porter, Conservative MP for Wirral South, was reported to have been speaking for the majority of those who contributed to the debate when he asked: "On Monday you asked me to support the Prime Minister, which I shall do, but I should be asked to support Leon Brittan, which I will not."

Sir John Page, MP for Harrow West, who has been critical of Mr Michael Heseltine during the Westland dispute, hit out at Mr Brittan, saying that he had put the Prime Minister in "an impossible situation".

Mr Robin Heswell-Hyson, MP for Tiverton, angrily pointed out that in his statement on January 13 Mr Brittan had omitted to mention that he had authorized the leak. "The party is entitled to expect a higher standard of conduct," he is reported to have said.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook, Conservative MP for Orpington, and a loyalist, indicated that he would not be supporting the Government on Monday and said there had been dishonesty.

Outside the meeting another veteran, Sir Peter Mills, MP for Devon West and Torridge, stated: "I consider the Prime Minister has been put in an intolerable position. Leon Brittan must consider his position very carefully. He should resign."

The overwhelming view of the backbenchers was that they had to try to put the crisis behind them.

Mr Norman St John-Stevens, the former Cabinet minister who has a small parliamentary majority, is said to have won considerable support from his colleagues when he called on MPs to rally behind the Prime Minister.

Text of letter, and Ingham profile, page 2
Parliament, page 2
Leading article, page 13

Thatcher not told for 16 days that Brittan authorized leak

By Anthony Davies, Political Correspondent

The Government was last night shaken by the news that one of its ministers had authorized a critical Westland leak had been personally authorized by Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and that in spite of unrelenting pressure Mr Brittan was adamantly resisting resignation.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday refused to tell the House of Commons that she had not been told for 16 days that Mr Brittan had authorized the leak of a "confidential" letter from Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor-General, to Mr Michael Heseltine, then Secretary of State for Defence, on January 6. She told MPs that 10 Downing Street had been consulted.

In spite of the fact that she

had been in Downing Street on January 6, in spite of phone calls from DTI to Mr Charles Powell, one of her private secretaries, and to Mr Bernard Ingham, her Press secretary, and in spite of the fact that an official leaks inquiry was set up eight days later, on January 14, Mrs Thatcher did not know what had happened until she received the leaks report on Wednesday night.

The mood of Conservative MPs last night was one of dismay and depression that the Prime Minister, the Government and the party should be so publicly humiliated, and anger that Mr Brittan had failed his colleagues by not offering a prompt and protective resignation in spite of Cabinet-level pressure.

That resignation is expected before Monday's emergency Commons debate, granted at Mrs Neil Kinnock's request after Mrs Thatcher's statement yesterday.

The party expects him to do his duty.

But even if Mr Brittan does resign the Prime Minister will come under the most intense attack in the Commons on Monday. One minister said after her statement yesterday: "It is digging a grave for herself."

The most common and most damaging all-party criticism of the Prime Minister yesterday was that she had lost control of the Government.

Even Lord Whitelaw, Mrs Thatcher's closest colleague, told the Lords that Mr Heseltine had taken his Westland campaign to the point at which it had become extremely difficult for the Cabinet government to maintain its confidentiality and joint Cabinet responsibility to be preserved.

Other Conservatives felt that Mrs Thatcher should have put an immediate end to the open warfare between Mr Heseltine and Mr Brittan.

Yesterday's statement illustrated the results of the Cabinet feud, with Mrs Thatcher saying openly that the problems over the leak could have been avoided if only Mr Heseltine had cleared his own correspondence before publishing it.

In the event, Mr Heseltine had sent a letter on Friday, January 3, to the European consortium which was bidding for a stake in Westland.

Because it was felt that the letter contained "material inaccuracies" on the basis of available documents Sir Patrick had written his letter to Mr Heseltine on Monday, January 6.

Mr Brittan received a copy of the letter at 1.30 pm and because he thought the information "should be brought into the public domain as soon as

possible" he authorized the leak.

Continued on page 2, col 4



Mrs Thatcher leaving the Commons after making her statement yesterday and Mr Brittan arriving earlier at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Confrontation looms at Murdoch papers after talks collapse

By Donald Macintyre and David Felton

The prospect of industrial confrontation between News International and print workers at its four newspapers was looming over this weekend, after the breakdown of the talks between Mr Rupert Murdoch, the company chairman, and union leaders yesterday.

Mr Murdoch made it clear after the collapse of the talks that the company would seek to bring out all four newspapers in the increasingly likely event of industrial action by the two main unions, Sogat '82 and the National Graphical Association (NGA), after their failure to secure recognition at the Wapping plant in east London.

The company has contingency plans to produce at least limited editions of its papers at the centre of the dispute. Mr Murdoch said that his message to readers was: "Just hang in there. We'll get to you. If we miss for a day or two, we'll be back."

Mr Murdoch, during two hours of talks at the Park Lane Hotel in central London, proposed new five-year contracts for "some hundreds" of the print workforce at each of the existing sites in Gray's Inn Road and Bouverie Street, while rejecting claims for

guarantees of no compulsory redundancy, indexation of pay rates and an assurance of no job losses as a result of production being transferred to Wapping.

The company declined to confirm a claim by Mr Tony Dubbins, general secretary of the NGA, that this would mean up to 5,000 jobs would go at the existing sites. But it is acknowledged that the proposals "would indeed mean the loss of several thousands of jobs," under the new agreements, which would replace arrangements due to run out at the end of June.

Mr Murdoch also proposed legally binding contracts similar to those already rejected by the print unions for the Wapping site.

The union's next move depends in the first instance on a meeting of all five of the industry's unions at the TUC today, which will be attended by Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the EETPU.

Mr Hammond is under pressure from TUC leaders to swing behind a common approach to negotiations, instead of pursuing separate talks for an agreement covering the Wapping plant.

In a gesture towards the TUC

Peres steps up pressure on Husain

By Nicholas Ashford

The pace of Middle East diplomacy quickened appreciably yesterday as Mr Shimon Peres, the visiting Israeli Prime Minister, held two further rounds of secret talks with Mr Richard Murphy, US Assistant Secretary of State, on ways to bring King Husain of Jordan and moderate Palestinians into direct talks with Israel.

There was a growing conviction among Israeli officials accompanying Mr Peres on his official visit to Britain that King Husain may abandon efforts to persuade Mr Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization to join him in the talks and will invite moderate Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza to join him instead.

However, they recalled that King Husain has been on the verge of talking peace with Israel in the past but has pulled back because of Arab pressure.

"It is not too difficult to get him 80 per cent of the way. It is the last 20 per cent which can be problematical."

The talks Mr Peres has been holding with Mr Murphy — he has met President Reagan's top Middle East expert three times since his arrival in London on Tuesday — have eclipsed the official part of his visit to London.

Continued on back page, col 6

Direct cash offer to rebuild inner cities

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

A radical two-pronged plan aimed at encouraging the regeneration of Britain's derelict inner cities will be outlined by the Government today.

It will include giving Whitehall grants direct to private sector developers wishing to improve rundown areas and to cut out the time-wasting and political obstruction encountered from some local authorities.

A system of simplified planned zones, free from all but the most basic planning restraints, will also be introduced.

The new proposals, to be contained in the Housing and Planning Bill, come in advance of the Prime Minister's own recommendations for the inner cities after last year's riots, and have her blessing.

At the moment private

developers wishing to regenerate the worst inner city areas can apply for government cash through local authorities. But there have been complaints of undue bureaucracy, political opposition and delays, particularly involving Labour-controlled councils.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, has decided to speed the process by making urban regeneration grants available directly to developers.

In multi-million pound schemes, which often cover several acres, the Government would provide about £1 in grant for every £5 spent by builders.

The simplified planning zones, which will remove much town-hall red tape, will not be introduced until next year.

Evacuees turn Britannia into polyglot shantytown

From Richard Dowden, Royal Yacht Britannia, off the coast of Aden

The moon hung stern over the fluttering White Ensign, silencing the ship's wake to silver, while on the packed quarter deck the band in khaki shirts and shorts played their hearts out. When the applause died down, the band leader bowed, turned to the crowd, and said: "Now I know what Band Aid felt like."

Below, in the Queen's private quarters, beneath gilt-framed paintings, Indian and Pakistani families, the women dressed in colourful saris, were stretched out on the floor, some of their children curled up asleep among their few bags.

In the Queen's dining room next door, where heads of state have dined in splendour, humble citizens tucked into plates of rice, beans and stew.

Every state cabin was filled: Pakistanis, Japanese, Sudanese, Greeks, Bangladeshis,

Filipinos, Indians, Britons, Chinese, Engineers, doctors, shopkeepers, waitresses, construction workers, all crammed in together. A polyglot shantytown has moved into the palace. Even the Queen's bedroom has stores in it.

The British tend to an disasters and defend well, but this operation, which has been carried out with nonchalance and humour, bordered on the magical. Among Britannia's bewildered passengers there was a universal feeling of immense relief, mixed with blank astonishment at finding themselves on the most exclusive cruise in the world.

One unusual feature of the rescue, disclosed by the Ministry of Defence yesterday, was that for about three days a Russian trawler officer had been on board Britannia,

providing liaison with Russian ships and people ashore.

Returning to Djibouti last night, Britannia had 442 evacuees on board, 22 of them British, which puts Britannia's rescue total at 1,082 from 50 different countries.

They thought these were the last, but as Britannia pulled away from Aden another Briton was discovered on the jetty, and she turned back to pick him up.

He was Saleh Ali from Aden, a London Transport engineer on holiday visiting his family. "I will never believe the ship came back for me," he said.

They thought these were the last, but as Britannia pulled away from Aden another Briton was discovered on the jetty, and she turned back to pick him up.

He was Saleh Ali from Aden, a London Transport engineer on holiday visiting his family. "I will never believe the ship came back for me," he said.

Then yesterday afternoon 800 more Indians were found whom the diplomatic community did not know about, and last night negotiations were continuing to evacuate them. It is unlikely that the Britannia will return to pick them up as there are other ships in the

area to do the task, and Britannia is due in Auckland for a Royal tour starting in late February.

A group of British journalists were brought from Djibouti to meet the Britannia by HMS Jupiter, taken by helicopter, and winched on in Britannia's decks.

The tales they heard from the evacuees were in terrible contrast to the calm splendour of the escape.

Mr Gerald Parry, aged 32, from Epsom, Surrey, had spent much of last week lying in a slit trench at the Bovis construction camp at Bir Nasic, about 18 miles from the capital, while a tank and rocket battle raged. Rebels had ringed the camp with artillery, and Government troops poured fire onto it.

Follow the Leader



the quality scotch

ARTHUR BELL & SONS PLC. ESTABLISHED 1825

Militant Tendency accused of physical attacks on Labour opponents

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Allegations of physical attacks on Labour party members who opposed Militant Tendency and of open intimidation and threats have been submitted to the inquiry into the Liverpool District Labour Party.

The left-wing but anti-Militant Merseyside Labour Co-ordinating Committee, in evidence made public yesterday in the *Tribune* newspaper, alleges that leading members of the district party unconstitutionally prevented opponents of Militant from contesting winnable city council seats. It added how candidates were ordered to submit to "loyalty oaths" before they were considered fit to seek election.

The committee alleges that even before the electoral party's suspension there had been no proper meeting since September. Instead, there have been "aggregate" meetings, mixing delegates and members, and often attended by "visitors" from outside the city who almost always turned out to be Militant sympathizers.

But the allegations of physical violence against the critics of Militant, to be published in *Tribune* next week, are likely to have a crucial influence on the outcome of the inquiry. It is not expected to report in full until next month.

The Merseyside Labour Co-ordinating Committee evidence alleges physical threats inside and outside party meetings. It states that party members invited others to "go outside" to settle their differences. Such a threat was made to Mr Ian Williams, a prominent member of the Liverpool Labour Left.

A meeting of the Dingle Ward was told by a union convenor and Militant ally that his political enemies would be "visited", the evidence stated.

Members of the council's static security forces, which have been referred to as "Derek Hatton's private army", were said to attend district party meetings to "police" them.

It was said that one member of the force, who frequently accompanied Mr Hatton and other prominent Militant councillors, stood at the end of a row of party members who were critics of Militant and persistently directed threats and obscenities at them.

His politing was said in the evidence to have reached its peak when he physically ejected a party member, Mr Lew Baxter, who had a legitimate right to be present.

At a district party meeting in November four local authority union leaders, united in their opposition to Militant policies, were named as targets for removal by prominent councillors. The four were Mr Peter Cresswell, Miss Judy Cotter, Mr Jim Ferguson and Mr Neville Bann.

Turning to the physical attacks, the evidence stated that Mr Ben Lucas, chairman of Liverpool University Labour Club, was allegedly assaulted by two leading Militant youth activists, who were named.

The extracts from the evidence described in detail how the process of selecting candidates for the local government party was used as a "political filter" to exclude opponents of Militant and their allies.

First, candidates had to answer three "loyalty oath" questions and were in practice asked to choose district party policy over national policies in crucial areas.

Candidates were routinely questioned about their specific ideological beliefs, and answers deemed to be outside the dominant political line of the district party led to exclusion.

The Merseyside Labour Co-ordinating Committee said the campaign over the councils budget had left the Party with a credibility gap with the local electorate.

"Internally local party morale is very low. The abuse and vilification of party members who had proposed compromise budgets, or opposed certain tactics, combined with the cynical manipulation of the majority of the councillors... has undermined party unity and severely affected its capacity to mobilize for the municipal elections in May" it added.



The Prince of Wales being given a guided tour of the World of Watercolours and Drawings Exhibition at the Park Lane Hotel in London yesterday by the Royal Academy artist, Mr John Ward. Later Mr Ward said that the Prince, as an amateur artist, "finds painting a marvellous refuge from the pressures of work."

Coca-Cola given aid of £900,000 for 14 jobs

By Stephen Goodwin

Fourteen jobs in a new Coca-Cola canning factory in North-Cornwall have been bought at a cost to the taxpayer of more than £600,000 for each job.

The story of how £900,000 was offered to set up a plant at Lambeg, Co Antrim, is disclosed in the latest report on government spending in Ulster.

The system for authorizing selective assistance over a limit of £8,500 a job emerges as little more than a rubberstamp.

Compiled by Mr Louis Calvert, Comptroller and Auditor-General for Northern Ireland, the report questions the evaluation of state aid.

The Leventis Group, parent company of Coca-Cola Bottlers (Ulster), applied for assistance towards the £2.27 million canning project in October 1983. It was to be built alongside its bottling factory, already employing 276 full-time workers, and in March 1984 the Department of Economic Development offered Leventis a grant amounting to 40 per cent of the capital cost.

Although only 14 new jobs were to be created, the Department of Economic Development told Mr Calvert that a further 55 jobs at the bottling plant would be "renewed" if the plant was to be built. Without the officials' aid, these jobs would be at risk.

Mr Calvert notes that this has the effect of reducing the subsidy for each job to £13,000 but clearly he doubts whether any bottling jobs were seriously threatened. At one stage his officers suggested that the department had added the 55 renewals to bring down the cost per job.

The department maintained that as demand for canned drinks was increasing, that for single portion bottles was falling. However, Mr Calvert found that Coca-Cola's own business plan forecast increasing sales of 1 litre, 1.5 and 2 litre bottles and "a large increase" in the total volume of Coca-Cola to be sold in bottles.

This assessment was reinforced by an external consultant who, the report says, "had not considered that any jobs in the bottling plant would be seriously at risk if the canning plant was not built at Lambeg."

Canning was due to begin at Lambeg in September 1985 but full production cannot begin until 1988 when the franchise held by Batchelors of Dublin ends, the report says.

Three hundred jobs will be lost in a reorganization of Southern Electricity Board offices at Lyndhurst in Hampshire, Reading, the Isle of Wight, Swindon and Yeovil.

Confrontation looms at Murdoch papers

Continued from page 1

The Prime Minister defended Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, when he was criticized during Commons questions by Mr David Nellist, Labour MP for Coventry South East.

Mr Nellist asked Mrs Thatcher: "Before she loses another member of her Cabinet in the Britnagga scandal, will she send a message to Mr Murdoch, one of the millionaires of Britain's undemocratic Press, that he is not a First World War general, filling in the trenches outside Wapping plant with rolls of barbed wire, and that industrial serfdom, where the workers became the property of the masters, should have gone out of this country centuries ago?"

Mr Thatcher: "Mr Murdoch is trying to get rid of restrictive practices which should have been got rid of years ago and to protect the future of some of Britain's most distinguished newspapers."

Mr Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West: "The *Sax* distinguished!"

Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, on maximizing production at Wapping as a basis for agreements at Gray's Inn Road and Bouverie Street. But they have made it clear it would have to extend to Wapping.

"We pointed out that the horse had bolted and that we had other people there now," Mr Murdoch said.

"It is tragic that they've missed this opportunity. We have been begging the unions to come to an agreement at Wapping for six years now. Earlier on we would have given them all sorts of things."

"They seem determined to take me on. I'm amazed. They seem to roll over and play dead for Mr (Robert) Maxwell, and we, on the other hand, have created thousands of jobs in this country. We've picked up ailing, dying newspapers and breathed new life into them," he said.

Mr Murdoch made it clear that the company had contingency plans for distribution, which had worked "pretty well last Saturday."

TNT, a commercial transport firm in which News International has an estimated six per cent stake, ensured supplies to London retailers of a 24-page supplement to *The Sunday Times* but that would need to be "tested and proven" in the event of a strike.

Miss Brenda Dean, general secretary of Sogat '82, said that the outlook now appeared "very bleak."

"We are extremely disappointed, more for our members' families than for the bureaucracy of the union because they are the people Mr Murdoch has turned his back on. I'm absolutely amazed the company has not been prepared to have constructive discussions with us."

Miss Dean said that the alternative proposals put forward by Mr Willis would be widely recognized as "very progressive."

Last night print union leaders, who are armed with a 5 to 1 ballot majority in favour of industrial action, met transport union leaders in an attempt to secure support for disrupting distribution of papers which they expect to be produced at Wapping and the Kinning Park plant at Glasgow, in the event of a strike.

Miss Dean declined to give details of the meeting but said that the unions were seeking an urgent meeting of the TUC's transport industries committee.

Journalists on *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* who belong to the Institute of Journalists yesterday gave their support to Mr Murdoch in his battle over new technology at Wapping, in a joint letter from Patrick Davis, convener of *The Times* IOJ chapter, and Godfrey Smith, convener of *The Sunday Times*.

Voters beat the snow in Ulster

By Richard Ford

First results from Northern Ireland's 15 parliamentary by-elections will be known early this afternoon after voters braved a day of scattered snow showers and freezing weather to vote on the Anglo-Irish agreement.

All the results are expected to be known by this evening, although recounts may be needed in at least two border marginal constituencies which were hit by the worst of yesterday's weather.

Polling was described as "brisk" and in strongly Protestant areas the turnout in favour of Official Unionist and Democratic Unionist candidates at the end of their "Ulster Says No" campaign was described as unprecedented.

But the weather and the several hours of darkness during which voting took place has led to uncertainty about the total turnout.

Among the first to vote were Mr James Molyseux, OUP leader, and the Rev Ian Paisley, DUP leader.

This is the first time in a national election that voters have had to present official identification. The aim is to end vote "stealing".

The Irish Republic's Fianna Fail opposition party suffered a blow when its front bench environment spokesman, Mr Bobby Molloy, defected to the new Progressive Democrats.

Tory MPs want curb on Spanish cars

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

A private meeting of Conservative MPs told Mr Paul Channon, Minister of Trade, to use whatever methods are most effective to restrict Spanish car imports "short of an actual blockade" until Spain increases the quota of British car imports for 1986 to a more realistic level.

Mr Iain Mills, MP for Meriden, said yesterday: "I am all in favour of doing a French on them and insisting that all Spanish cars arriving in this country will be accepted only through somewhere nice and convenient like the Shetlands."

Mr Anthony Beaumont Dark, MP for Birmingham, Selby Oak, asked the Minister: "Why is it we always seem to be cast in the role of gentlemen playing the game according to the rules while other countries ignore them whenever it suits them?"

Mr Channon urged the predominantly West Midlands MPs to take a more moderate line publicly and "not to rock the boat at this time."

He said that Austin Rover had known for many months that there was little likelihood of Spain agreeing to its request for its 1986 quota to be increased by 3,000 cars.

He conceded that this seemed unfair in the face of unrestricted Spanish-made Fiestas, Novas and Seats coming into Britain at the rate of 12,000 a month, but the quota had been agreed according to the conditions of Spanish membership of the EEC.

Former Labour MPs on Alliance poll list

By Our Political Staff

Two former Labour MPs are among seven prominent SDP members short-listed to fight the forthcoming parliamentary by-election in Fulham for the Alliance.

The former MPs are Mr Evan Luard, a former junior minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who represented Oxford, and Dr Colin Phipps, who sat for Dudley West. Both men lost their seats in 1979.

Two women, the *Guardian* columnist, Polly Toynbee, and Elizabeth Smith, an executive member of the all-party 300 group, are included on the short-list.

The others are Mr William Goodhart QC, chairman of the SDP council arrangements committee, Mr Roger Liddle, leader of the Alliance on Lambeth council, and Mr Will Umwin, a lecturer and accountant and former Fulham councillor.

Pay on merit urged for teachers

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Teachers should be paid according to merit because "safe mediocrity" was not good enough to equip children for the challenge of the 1990s, Mr John Banham, Controller of Audit, said yesterday.

Thousands of teachers should lose their jobs, and their schools should be closed or merged in line with falling pupil numbers, Mr Banham, said in his 15-member Audit Commission, told the Society of Education Officers in a wide-ranging speech.

Failure to undertake "aggressive rationalization" of secondary schools would mean that £250 million of public money would be wasted every year. Teachers should be forced to leave through early retirement, he said.

Mr Banham, who has become the scourge of education managers, said that schools should have more say in the way in which teachers were managed and rewarded. Teachers should have 10 days off-the-job training a year, and the Burnham system for negotiating teachers' pay should be abolished.

The pupil to teacher ratio should be replaced with activity-led staffing, Mr Banham, who was a director of McKinsey and Co management consultants, said. The education service should market itself to parents, employers and the media, not to mention, students, he said.

"How many local education authorities have marketing directors?" he asked. "If we devoted a fraction of the talent and expense that Heinz devote to selling and marketing their spaghetti to marketing education locally and to the national level, many of today's problems might simply disappear."

Parents organized by the All London Parents Action Group and trailing small children, in yesterday's job teachers' rally, supported the teachers' claim. At the same time thousands of teachers gathered at Arsenal football stadium for a rally organized by the National Union of Teachers.

Many classrooms were empty while the demonstrations took place, and last night the Labour Party tabled a Commons motion calling on the Government to provide more money to settle the dispute and to improve educational standards.

Today the two sides in the dispute meet again at the conciliation service, Acas, to try to hammer out a settlement at what has been described as a "make or break" meeting.

Two or three polytechnic, or perhaps five or six leading colleges, may have to be closed under proposals being considered by the National Advisory Body for local authority higher education, which distributes funding.

Severe damage has been caused to the Scottish examination system by the dispute over a demand by teachers for an independent pay review, the Scottish Secondary Teachers Association said yesterday. It also announced one-day strikes in February and March.

Print meeting 'under duress'

The following statement was issued by News International last night:

We met today under duress because we have to strike three to answer - based on a demand from unions for jobs for life at Gray's Inn Road and Bouverie Street. Mr Murdoch said he could not agree to this condition but he was prepared to discuss the future of both offices.

We had given six months' notice of termination of the existing house agreements, which meant that conditions of employment would be honoured until next July.

The unions did not wait for negotiations. They took a strike ballot.

This morning provided the first opportunity for the unions and Mr Murdoch to meet and it was obvious we were in an explosive atmosphere and not a suitable one for careful and considered negotiations.

Mr Murdoch said, when pressed by Miss Dean, that he saw a possibility of a negotiation with a minimum period of five years security for people to operate in the two companies at Gray's Inn Road and Bouverie Street and the contracts would be legally binding.

Mr Murdoch was further pressed for some idea of the work force he had in mind and, without any definition of how the operation could be carried out, he said jobs would be available for some hundreds of people at both plants. He referred specifically to those people employed directly in the printing operation.

He said the whole purpose of the exercise would be to achieve competitive efficiency with other newspaper organizations who are currently involved in discussions with the unions.

The company said that full details of this could only be worked out over a period of time which is why we had said July to allow an orderly period for discussions.

Mr Murdoch said he thought the unions would be unwise to strike and he was surprised after all he had done to rescue ailing papers that they were turning on him in this forcible fashion.

The union response to this was to say that their members were concerned with security and had voted overwhelmingly to take action.

Correction

The Office of Fair Trading has not yet seen a decision on Law Society draft proposals to end restrictive practices in the legal profession as implied on January 15. However it welcomes the present debate between the Bar and Law Society to help clarify the public interest in the provision of legal services to the community.

Kinnock compares leak controversy to Watergate

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock last night compared the Westland leak controversy to the Watergate scandal, and demanded that Mrs Thatcher provide answers to key questions in the affair.

The Labour leader told journalists at Westminster: "The inference of what the Prime Minister said today was that there was a bit of deception, but it was in the national interest. That was precisely the excuse that was offered at the very start of the Watergate scandal."

"The whole description of events is incredible. They are lacking in credibility as far as I am concerned and lacking in credibility as far as the Government is concerned," he said.

Mr Kinnock said that Mrs Thatcher had to explain where she was on January 6 when she was apparently so unobtainable; when she knew precisely about the "concocted" which people in the Department of Trade and Industry and Downing Street set in hand, and the use of the letter written by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General.

And in the most damning reference to Mr Brittan, he challenged the Prime Minister's assertion that the Secretary of State alone had authorized Sir Patrick's letter to be leaked to the Press Association.

"There must have been times in the last few years when as a government minister he has wondered whether he could blow his nose without permission," Mr Kinnock said.

"While there are strident personalities in the Government who may take such a decision on their own, if you had to draw up a list of the people likely to do it, at the bottom would be Leon Brittan."

"It is very difficult to believe that he would gulp and take responsibility entirely on his own."

Mr Kinnock said that leaking was part of the currency of government, and always had been. "But the different level at which this leaking was contrived and operated poses different questions about the use of the machinery of government."

"I have great confidence in him," Mr Ingham smiled.

In the words of Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, Mr Ingham is seen by his political opponents as "some sort of rough-spoken Yorkshire Rasputin", manipulating both government and Press.

Mr Ingham, aged 53, lives in Purley. He is married with one son.

Full text of leaked letter from Solicitor General

The Press Association sent out its first full report of the leaked letter from Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, to Mr Michael Heseltine at 2.53pm on January 6.

That leaked quoted two words from the letter referring to a statement by Mr Heseltine on Westland - "material inaccuracy" but it did not quote an important qualification in the same sentence.

A report in *The Times* on January 7 quoted three more selectively leaked sentences.

In response to the leak by the PA, Mr Heseltine issued at about 8pm on January 6 a corroborated denial that his statement misled Westland shareholders.

Sir Patrick, he said, had not seen all the relevant documents before writing the letter, and these fully supported his original statement.

The paragraphs leaked to *The Times* are printed in bold type in the following full text of Sir Patrick Mayhew's letter:

Dear Michael,

I saw in "The Times" on Saturday the text of a letter you are reported to have sent to the Managing Director of Lloyds Merchant Bank, in the course of your answer to the third question asked by Mr Horne, concerning the indications received by HMG from "European Governments and companies" as to the projects which "may be lost to Westland if the United Technologies/Fiat proposals are accepted"; you state:

"There are indications available to HMG from both the other Governments and the companies concerned that a link with Sikorsky/Fiat would be incompatible with participation by that company on behalf of the UK in the collaborative battlefield helicopter and NH90 projects."

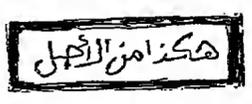
This sentence, when read with the rest of the paragraph (in which the Defence Ministers of four Governments apart from the UK are referred to). Necessarily implies that all the Governments and all the companies involved in the collaborative battlefield helicopter and NH90 projects have given this indication to HMG.

The telegrams (No 440 of 17 December from the Hague and Nos 1037 and 1083 of 5 December from Rome) and the record of your meeting with the West German Defence Minister in November which were available to me when I gave advice on 31 December to the Prime Minister on the text of her reply to Sir John Cuckney, do not seem to me to support a statement that all the Governments and all the companies have indicated that a Westland link with Sikorsky/Fiat would be incompatible with participation by that company in the projects. The documents I have seen contain evidence that the Netherlands Defence Secretary, the German Defence Minister and the Chairman of Augusta have commented to the knowledge of HMG in various ways on adverse consequences which may flow from a decision to accept the Sikorsky offer. (In addition to Augusta, the documents disclose that Aerospaciale

Promote your money to
5 STAR INTEREST
See the ABBEY NATIONAL advertisement on Page 19

The Times overseas selling prices

Monday to Friday	£1.00
Saturday	£1.00
Sunday	£1.00
USA and Canada	£1.00
Japan	£1.00
India	£1.00
South Africa	£1.00
Other countries	£1.00



Aids patients are being shunned by frightened doctors, expert claims

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Some patients infected with the Aids virus are being shunned by members of the medical profession because of fear and ignorance, a leading specialist said yesterday.

Doctors, dentists and nurses are turning away people seeking treatment or advice because of exaggerated fears about acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, Mr David Miller, a clinical psychologist, said. He is the chief counselling adviser of the National Aids Counselling Training Unit, at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London.

Mr Miller is co-editor of *The Management of Aids Patients*, a book to be published next Friday aimed at professional health care staff.

Some patients are being treated in an off-hand, if not irresponsible manner by medical personnel through fear and ignorance, and this is not acceptable, he said. "If doctors respond to people with the Aids virus in this way, how on earth can we expect society to behave otherwise?"

Mr Miller said that it was almost impossible to find dentists willing to treat people whose blood tests had shown them to have been exposed to the virus. It was "not uncommon" for male homosexuals to be sent away from medical departments when they sought appointments, he said.

Such discrimination occurs because many members of the medical profession misunderstand the nature of the Aids virus and overestimate its infectiousness, he said.

"What we need urgently is clear and comprehensive public education on the risks associated with the disease, and adequate counselling for everyone who is infected or at risk. The sooner the Government launches a health education campaign of this type, the better."

Mr Miller and a small group of colleagues have been holding workshops throughout Britain at which doctors and other health professionals are briefed on Aids, infection control, risk reduction and the counselling of patients, families and friends.

About 850 such professionals have attended the workshops since they were set up with government funding last April, and classes are booked until next July.

"We have found in some hospitals that the degree of compassion and concern for Aids patients is exemplary," Mr Miller said.

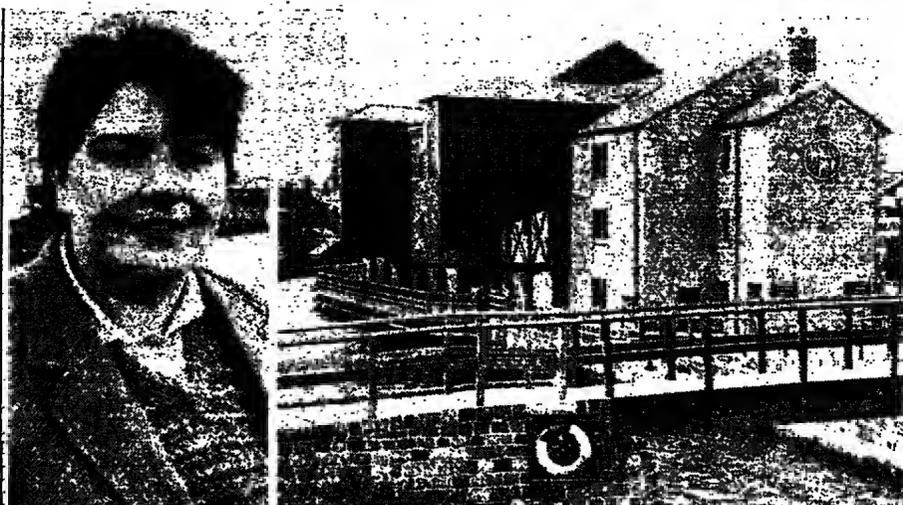
"But we need to raise the awareness of general practitioners, some of whom are failing to recognize clinical signs of infection in their patients."

"Others are referring suspected cases for blood tests without adequate counselling or proper follow-up, and this is causing us extreme concern."

Leading specialists at St Mary's Hospital, one of the main centres for treating Aids patients, have contributed to *The Management of Aids Patients*.

The book is edited by Mr Miller, Dr Jonathan Weber and Dr John Green, also of St Mary's.

The Management of Aids Patients, edited by Mr David Miller, Dr Jonathan Weber and Dr John Green, (Macmillan, £30 hardback and £10.95 paperback).



Hazel Hawarden, the Wigan museum organizer, and the completed £3.5 million Wigan Pier project, which is expected to attract more than 250,000 visitors a year to a once badly depressed area. (Photographs: Mike Arron).

The Queen takes road to Wigan Pier

George Orwell wrote about it, although he never found it, and generations of comedians dating back to George Formby Senior have made jokes about it. Now Wigan Pier is to receive its greatest accolade with an official visit from the Queen (Peter Davenport writes).

After three years, a £3.5 million renovation has transformed the disused site of the original pier into a smart complex of museums, exhibition centres, a public house and restaurant.

Wigan Pier began life in the 1700s as a small wooden jetty jutting out three feet into the Leeds-Liverpool canal. It was at its busiest loading the coal barges that produced much of Wigan's turn-of-the-century prosperity.

But the pier remained unheralded outside the locality until George Formby Senior, who lived in Wigan, turned it into a music hall joke.

When Orwell arrived in 1937 to write "The Road in Wigan Pier", the

structure had been dismantled for eight years and used the decay into which the area had fallen as a symbol of the ills that were then blighting the industrial North.

The local technical college has built a replica of the original pier, and renovations have also been carried out on a large cotton mill and disused Victorian and Georgian warehouses.

The Queen will officially open the project on March 21.

Health care group to offer family GP cover

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A California-based health care company is planning to launch the first health maintenance organization (HMO) in Britain next year.

Health maintenance organizations are the fastest-growing sector of health care in the United States. Unlike private health insurance in Britain, they offer cover for family doctor services, as well as hospital care.

Because they often contract with private hospitals to provide beds, rather than run them themselves, more emphasis is placed on keeping people healthy and out of hospital, rather than just paying their bills when they go in. As a result they have helped reduce the steep increase in the cost of health care in the United States.

Dr Michael Goldsmith, who launched the Harrow Health Centre, a prepayment private family doctor service which met with mixed success before being taken over by American Medical International, has been appointed executive director of a newly-formed United Kingdom branch of Family Health Programme Inc.

The company is spending £250,000 on a HMO feasibility study of England and plans to invest £5 million in four to six private family health centres in the London area next year.

These would form the basis of an HMO which would offer companies and individuals health insurance.

Barristers' threat of pay sanctions

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government was warned last night that, unless it increased levels for barristers doing criminal legal aid, the profession will have to consider "sanctions".

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, chairman of the Bar, said that the profession had submitted a responsible report to the Government and would expect "a responsible reaction".

He said: "This is something which is not easy for a professional to talk about, the possibility of sanctions. But there is now a clear choice between accepting that the rates of remuneration have got to go up, or suffering the decline of this profession in the public-funded area."

Mr Alexander was speaking in the first of a new Radio 4 series called *Pillars of Society*. Talks on a 30-40 per cent pay claim by the Bar, have now reached a crucial stage, with the Government expected to announce its intentions. The Bar has already said that it will consider refusing to undertake prosecution work if its claim is not met.

Mr Alexander said earlier this week that the Government's statement of intention to improve the prosecution of fraud would be "empty words" unless, as recommended in the recent Roskill report on fraud, it

Motorists join chase for bandits

A bus driver and a motorist tried to foil a £100,000 armed robbery yesterday in which a Post Office van was hijacked and shots were fired by the escaping robbers.

Mr John Raine, aged 31, drove his bus, with nine passengers, on board including schoolchildren, alongside the hijacked van, blocking its path until he was threatened by a man with a gun.

The motorist also rammed the robbers' getaway car and continued the chase after being fired at twice.

The armed men took over the Post Office van as it pulled up outside a sub-post office in Charnister Road, Bourne-mouth.

After Mr Raine was threatened with a gun, the van was driven to a road near by where the stolen money was transferred to a car driven by a third man.

The car sped off, chased by the bus, aged 40, and his son aged 18. The man, who refused to be named, said: "At a junction I decided to hit him up the back to see what would happen. They sped off and we followed, and then they leaned out of the passenger side of the car and started firing the gun."

The police set up road blocks but the vehicle was found abandoned.

Hospital dangers for elderly

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Disabled elderly people admitted to hospital to give relatives caring for them a break run a high risk of dying shortly after admission, according to a study published in the *British Medical Journal* today.

A study of 69 patients, with an average age of 82, admitted to the Whittington Hospital in north London, not because they were ill but to give those caring for them a rest, showed that nine of them, or 13 per cent, died shortly afterwards from pneumonia.

That is a death rate half as high again as that for patients aged over 85, admitted to the geriatric wards at the hospital because they are acutely ill.

The figures became even worse when they included elderly people taken in as "social admissions" because they, or their relatives, could no longer cope at home, but who, again, were not actually ill. Of 43 patients admitted with an average age of 85, fifteen, or more than a third, died shortly afterwards, again mainly from pneumonia.

Doctors at the hospital said the figures showed clearly that "even a temporary move for a short period is not without risk for the elderly". They said ways had to be found to provide prolonged periods of care at home to relieve relatives, rather than take elderly people into hospital. Admission as a solution to a social problem, which was still readily accepted by doctors, relatives and community workers, "must be discouraged", the doctors added.

Dr Gurcharan Rai, consultant physician at the hospital, and his colleagues said there was no obvious explanation for the figures. They may have been due to disability, the treatment received or simply the move from the familiar home setting to hospital surroundings.

'Spiritualist' jailed for killing baby

A self-proclaimed spiritualist and faith healer was jailed for life yesterday for the macabre murder of his lover's baby.

The child's mother, who claimed her spirit guide, an imaginary Tibetan monk, in yellow robes, told her: "Your baby has to die", was held in custody for medical reports.

Glasgow High Court was told Kether Boleskin, aged three months, was strangled on the banks of Loch Lomond. Nine months later her mother, Sheena McLaughlan, aged 23, returned to the lochside with a guitar and sang a lament for her.

Alan Porter, aged 28, said he saw McLaughlan trying to strangle the baby and told police: "I took the baby from her and strangled her with my own hands to put her out of her suffering."

McLaughlan, denied murder but changed her plea to guilty to the lesser charge of culpable homicide. Porter had denied killing the child at Balloch Country Park in 1983.

Man sought in hotel killing

Police have described a man they want to interview in connection with the murder of a Lake District hotel owner, Mrs Brown Nixon.

He was seen near the Rothay Manor Hotel at Ambleside late on Sunday evening at about the time Mrs Dixon, aged 66, was strangled in her cottage next door. The man is white, aged 30 to 40, 6ft tall and well-built. He has a medium length, dark, full beard and dark hair, either collar-length or shorter. He has staring eyes and was wearing dark clothing, with fawn trousers with a large check.

Drink case police chief to retire

Bert Sheldon, aged 44, a chief superintendent in Dorset police traffic division who was given a suspended jail sentence for driving while over the limit, is to be retired early on grounds of ill health.

Sheldon, who was also banned for two years and is appealing against the 28 day sentence, will not have to face a disciplinary hearing as a result of the police sub-committee decision.

Libyan 'not involved in murder'

By Peter Evans and Pat Healy

A Libyan who was expelled with others from Britain after the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher has been allowed to return because Mr Mark Patey, the chief adjudicator of immigration appeals, was satisfied he had nothing to do with it.

A copy of Mr Patey's determination of the case last September showed he was in no doubt that Salah Abdessalam Ben Rabha, who had been besieged in the Libyan People's Bureau, should be allowed to rejoin his wife and five children. The case was heard in camera.

Mr Patey, who has been chief adjudicator since July 1984, said that had there been any substantive evidence to indicate that Mr Rabha, a film technician, was involved directly or indirectly with "the barbaric outrage" on April 17, 1984, outside the Libyan People's Bureau in St James's Square, he would have considered the decision to refuse him a visa wholly justified, regardless of the strong compassionate circumstances.

No such evidence had been produced. Instead, it would be inconceivable that the appellant would seek to return to this country to face the likelihood of life imprisonment if he was, in fact, so involved," Mr Patey said.

"In these circumstances, and in spite of certain inconsistencies in the evidence, for example whether the appellant



Mrs Kathleen Rabha, whose Libyan husband was deported after the siege at the People's Bureau in 1984 and has been re-admitted to Britain, leaving their Wiltshire home yesterday with three of their five children.

relating to Mr Rabha's wife and five children were very strong.

Mr David Waddington, Minister of State at the Home Office, yesterday held out little hope of any action to MPs protesting against the decision. Speaking on the BBC Radio programme *Today*, he said: "We did not want him back, but people have this right of appeal."

Yesterday, Mr Ben Rabha, who lives near Pewsey, Wiltshire, was in hiding. The decision to allow him to return was defended by Mr Charles Morrison, Conservative MP for Devizes, who had been approached by the family for assistance over his return.

Life ban on fishy tale anglers

By Tim Jones

The tall tales of four fishermen have led to them being banned for life from British sea angling competitions. It is alleged that four operated a ring using each other's names as witnesses to send off false claims to angling magazines in order to win prizes.

The Welsh Sea Angling Federation imposed the ban after an investigation by the Forthcawl Club in Mid Glamorgan. The men's alleged activities were discovered after doubts were cast on entries submitted from all the club's 140 members.

One of the men is said to have filled in a form using the name of his daughter, aged five, while another claimed his catch had been witnessed by a top Welsh rugby international forward.

Mr Pedro Birch, club vice-president, said: "I bet the player wouldn't know a mackerel from a herring. One of the men genuinely won a rod in a competition, and they realized they could do quite well if they made up stories about big catches."

Last night of the banned anglers Mr Jeff Prosser, denied for the four had operated a ring. He said: "I think other members are jealous because, being employed, we can spend more time at sea and catch more fish."

Orchestra wins damages for Private Eye libels

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The London Symphony Orchestra and Mr Anthony Camden, its chairman, were awarded "substantial" damages believed to run into five figures against the magazine, *Private Eye*, yesterday in a series of articles alleging that orchestra members were drunk and unruly and that Mr Camden was incompetent.

After the case, Mr Clive Gillinson, the LSO's managing director, said that the articles, carried between September 1983 and April last year, had damaged the company's reputation at a time when the future of all four London orchestras was in question. They cost the group money in lost sponsorship.

Mr Richard Ingrams, editor of *Private Eye*, and the publishers, Pressdram Ltd, conceded that all the allegations were totally false. They did not attempt to justify them.

They recognized that they were libels of the utmost gravity, which caused great distress and damage to the orchestra and to Mr Camden, and that they should never have been published. The defendants offered their apologies and agreed to pay all the legal costs.

Mr Gillinson said that the articles did not cause any internal dissension. He said: "But they were damaging. I would go to see people and, while they never asked about *Private Eye* outright, they were asking questions based upon what was in *Private Eye*. We do know of one sponsor who did not back us because of the stories."

In court it was said that the magazine alleged or suggested that the orchestra's members were drunk and dissonant and unruly and otherwise irresponsible, both in rehearsal and on foreign tours.

The management was inefficient and incompetent, the magazine said, and the company bankrupt. It also claimed that the management was dishonest in its dealings with members of the public, charities and sponsors.

The main allegations against Mr Camden were that, as chairman, he was inefficient and incompetent and dishonestly concealed from members of the orchestra the correct details of its financial affairs.

He had dishonestly concealed from the Arts Council the financial position of the orchestra, the magazine claimed.

It claimed also that he had behaved dictatorially and was hated by members of the orchestra, that he was devious, evasive, tyrannical and not to be trusted.

PHILIPS LIGHTING

5000 hours of light at one quarter the electricity

the electricity

Directly replaces ordinary light bulbs

PHILIPS SL*
Super long life bulb

SL*9 (equivalent 40W bulb) SL*13 (equivalent 60W bulb) SL*18 (equivalent 75W bulb) SL*25 (equivalent 100W bulb)

FROM Alders, Morrisons, Homebase, Payless DTC, British Home Stores and John Lewis AND selected branches of the following retailers: Electricity Board Showrooms, FW Woolworth, S & Q, House of Fraser, Carrefour and Grandways PLUS many good electrical and hardware shops

PHILIPS The World's No. 1 Lightmaker
bringing you the benefits of Better Lighting

PARLIAMENT JANUARY 23 1986

Kinnock gets emergency debate on leaked letter

No prosecutions: true facts had to be known

There is to be an emergency debate in the Commons on Monday on the Westland affair and the Prime Minister's statement on the inquiry into the leak of the letter from the Solicitor General to Mr Michael Heseltine, then Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Neil Kinnock. Leader of the Opposition, sought the emergency debate after more than 45 minutes of questioning of the Prime Minister.

Mrs Thatcher said that corrections to material inaccuracies in a letter from Mr Heseltine to Sir John Cuckney, chief executive of Westland, had to be brought into the public domain before Sir John held a press conference at 4 pm on January 6. Commercial judgements would be made on information supplied by the Government.

She had not been personally consulted about the leak but would have approved it. In reply to questions, she said that she thought that though the information had to be brought into the public domain, it should have been done in some other way.

Prior to Mr Kinnock being granted the emergency debate, Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, had said the Liberals had chosen the subject for debate on Wednesday.

Thatcher says Brittan was right

Mrs Thatcher, in her statement, said: As the House knows, Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Westland, wrote to me on December 30, 1985, asking whether I would be prepared to consider a European company, by the Government or a minority shareholding in the company were held by a major international group from a Nato country outside Europe.

This question was of fundamental importance to the company, in making its decision as to what course was best to follow in the best interests of the company and its employees. It was therefore essential to be sure that my reply should be in no way misleading to anyone who might rely on it in making commercial judgments and decisions.

The reply was accordingly considered among the departments concerned, and the text of my letter of January 1986, was agreed in detail by Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, Mr John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and finally by Sir Patrick Mayhew, Solicitor General. My letter was made public.

Two days later, in January 3, Mr Heseltine replied to a letter of the same date from Mr Horne of Lloyds Merchant Bank asking him a number of questions, covering some of the same ground as my own reply to Sir John Cuckney. The text of the letters became public that same day.

Mr Heseltine's reply was not cleared or even discussed with the relevant Cabinet colleagues. Moreover, although the reply was also material to the commercial judgments and decisions that would have to be made, the Solicitor General was not invited to scrutinise the letter before it was issued.

On the morning of January 6 the Solicitor General wrote to the then Secretary of State for Defence. He said: "It is foreseeable that your letter will be relied upon by the Westland Board and its shareholders, and that the Government in the Prime Minister on December 31, the Government in such circumstances is under a duty not to give information which is incomplete or inaccurate in any material particular."

"On the basis of the information contained in the documents to which I have referred, which I emphasise are all that I have seen, the sentence to your letter which Mr Horne does in my opinion contain material inaccuracies in the respects I have mentioned, and I therefore must advise that you should write again to Mr Horne correcting the inaccuracies."

I have quoted extensively from the letter which was published a week ago. As I have already indicated, it was especially important in this situation for statements made on behalf of the Government, on which commercial judgments might be based, to be accurate and in no way misleading.

That being so, it was a matter of duty that it should be made known publicly that there were thought to be material inaccuracies which needed to be corrected in Mr Heseltine's letter of January 3, which as the House will recall had already been made public.

Moreover, it was urgent that it should become public knowledge before 4 pm that afternoon, January 6, when Sir John Cuckney was due to hold a press conference to announce the Westland Board's recommendation to shareholders of a revised proposal from the United Technologies Corporation/Flat consortium.

These considerations were very much in the mind of Mr Brittan when the copy of the Solicitor General's letter was brought to his attention at 1.50 pm that afternoon of January 6.

He took the view that the fact that the Solicitor General had written to the then Secretary of State for Defence and the opinion he had expressed should be brought into the public domain as soon as possible. He asked his officials to discuss with my office whether the disclosure should be made, and if so whether it should be made from 10 Downing Street as he said he would prefer. He made it clear that, subject to the agreement of my Office, he was giving authority for the disclosure to be made from the Department of Trade and Industry, if it was not made from 10 Downing Street.

He expressed no view as to the form in which the disclosure should be made, though it was clear to all concerned that in the circumstances it was not possible to proceed by way of an agreed statement.

My office were accordingly approached. They did not seek my agreement; they considered - and they were right - that I should agree with Mr Brittan that the fact that the then Defence Secretary's letter of January 3 was thought by the Solicitor General to contain material inaccuracies which needed to be corrected, should become public knowledge as soon as possible, and before Sir John Cuckney's press conference.

It was accepted that the Department of Trade and Industry should disclose that fact, and that in view of the urgency of the matter the disclosure should be made by means of a telephone communication to the Press Association. It should have said that a different way must be found of making the relevant facts known.

The report finds, in the light of the evidence that the DTI acted in good faith in the knowledge that they had the authority of their Secretary of State and cover from my office for proceeding.

The Head of the department accordingly told a representative of the PA of the Solicitor General's letter and material elements of what it said. The company was also informed. The information was on the Press Association tapes at 3.30 pm.

Mr Brittan was in my view acting in good faith in thinking that it was important that the possible existence of material inaccuracies in the then Secretary of State for Defence's letter of January 3 should become a matter of public knowledge, if possible before Sir John Cuckney's press conference. It is clear that a different way must be found of making the relevant facts known.

The Attorney General has authorized me to inform the House that, having considered the report by the Head of the Civil Service, and on the material before him, he has decided, after consultation with, and with the full agreement of, the Director of Public Prosecutions, and Senior Treasury Counsel, that there is no justification for the institution of proceedings under the Official Secrets Act in respect of any of the persons concerned in this matter. (Loud laughter.)

In order that there should be no impediment to co-operation in the inquiry, the Attorney General had authorized the Head of the Civil Service to tell one of the officials concerned, whose name would be stated in the inquiry, that he had the Attorney General's authority to say that, provided that he received full co-operation in his inquiry, the official concerned would not be prosecuted in respect of anything said during the course of the inquiry.

The Head of the Civil Service did indeed receive full co-operation, not only from that official, but from all concerned. The Attorney General tells me that he is satisfied that in no way interfered with the course of justice on the facts disclosed in the inquiry, there would have been no question of proceedings against the official in question. (Labour shouts of "Resign").

Moves to allay fears over lenient sentences

The Government was still considering moves to allay public fears about lenient sentences, particularly for violent crimes, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, disclosed during questions in the Commons.

He said the Government had tried last session to include in the Prosecution of Offences Bill a provision to allow the Attorney General to refer lenient sentences to the court of Appeal. Under the clause the court would not have been able to change the sentence, but could issue guidelines on the recommended level of sentences for such offences.

He was replying to Sir Anthony Grant (South West Cambridgeshire, C) who said that in the minds of the public some of the sentences for the most heinous crimes of violence, by comparison with those for burglary, seemed to bear no relation. Some of the courts seemed to be totally out of touch with reality.

Mr Hurd said he noted with those remarks had a certain amount of support from other Conservative backbenchers. It was not up to Parliament to lay down what the courts should do but provide them with adequate sentencing powers.

This was a reference to the rejection in the Lords of a clause in the Prosecution of Offences Bill to allow the Attorney General to refer lenient sentences to the court of Appeal. Under the clause the court would not have been able to change the sentence, but could issue guidelines on the recommended level of sentences for such offences.

He was replying to Sir Anthony Grant (South West Cambridgeshire, C) who said that in the minds of the public some of the sentences for the most heinous crimes of violence, by comparison with those for burglary, seemed to bear no relation. Some of the courts seemed to be totally out of touch with reality.

Mr Hurd said he noted with those remarks had a certain amount of support from other Conservative backbenchers. It was not up to Parliament to lay down what the courts should do but provide them with adequate sentencing powers.

This was a reference to the rejection in the Lords of a clause in the Prosecution of Offences Bill to allow the Attorney General to refer lenient sentences to the court of Appeal. Under the clause the court would not have been able to change the sentence, but could issue guidelines on the recommended level of sentences for such offences.

He was replying to Sir Anthony Grant (South West Cambridgeshire, C) who said that in the minds of the public some of the sentences for the most heinous crimes of violence, by comparison with those for burglary, seemed to bear no relation. Some of the courts seemed to be totally out of touch with reality.

Mr Hurd said he noted with those remarks had a certain amount of support from other Conservative backbenchers. It was not up to Parliament to lay down what the courts should do but provide them with adequate sentencing powers.

This was a reference to the rejection in the Lords of a clause in the Prosecution of Offences Bill to allow the Attorney General to refer lenient sentences to the court of Appeal. Under the clause the court would not have been able to change the sentence, but could issue guidelines on the recommended level of sentences for such offences.

Speaker sticks to ruling

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) declared in the Commons that he would not change his ruling yesterday that Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was not to be asked to resign.

He said he had looked at the papers handed to him by Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Warrington, Lab). There were only minor differences between the text of the words read out by Mr Campbell-Savours when he raised his point of order. But this did not affect his (Mr Weatherill's) ruling.

Mr Brittan's speech, which was a complaint of was not a quotation. I am not responsible for looking behind the scenes in the House or to check if words used by ministers are also to be found in official documents. It would be putting an impossible burden on any Speaker to ask him to do that.

Women were markedly more nervous of travelling in the tunnel than men. Sixty-five per cent of women in the survey said they would be "concerned" about using it, compared with 40 per cent of men. Fifty-eight per cent of women and only 33 per cent of men said they would not go through the tunnel if given another way of making the crossing.

Waterloo station is to hold a public inquiry into the scheme because the Government has refused to do so. A spokesman said that BR should consider tunnel terminal facilities at more than one London station.

The council also wanted customs checks for tunnel passengers to be carried out on trains to avoid bottlenecks at stations. Mr Steve Barran, co-ordinator of the development group, said: "There is extreme concern that it will bring development pressures of the type that the people of Waterloo have been fighting for years."

Within a day of the Channel tunnel rail link announcement on Monday, a representative of Wimpey, one of the country's largest building firms, arrived in the Folkestone area looking for plots of land to buy for (Our Property Correspondent writes).

He was the first of many builders expected in the area around Cheriton, the site of the terminals, heralding a period of intense activity in the residential and commercial property markets. Substantial price rises are expected during the next few years.

Some agents have plans to increase staff to cope with the demand. Although the year has started well for the property market in the area, there was little anticipation of the decision because of false alarms in the past.

Now, however, "industrialists and potential investors in Kent and Sussex need to take up their options quickly or be left behind in the rush to acquire land and leases in the South-east," Mr John Bishop, chairman of Geering and Coyle, part of the Lloyds Bank-owned Black Horse agencies, said.

He said the decision signalled a rise in rents for offices, factories, warehousing and retail space, and an increase in house prices beyond the projected growth figure of 10 per cent for 1986.

Mr Bishop, whose firm has more than 20 offices in Kent and Sussex, believed the east Kent would benefit first, with a ripple effect moving from the construction site across the counties.

Mr Roddy Loder-Symonds, a partner at Strutt and Parker's Canterbury office, said that people were concerned about the environmental impact of the tunnel, but added, "we have to accept it will come, and must

Opposition presses for Cabinet resignations

Mr Kinnock: After persistent efforts we have managed to pull a statement from her, it had a detail produced, not by frankness, but by guilt and unscrupulous guilt. The state will remain with her for as long as she endures in office.

Her excuses are completely implausible. She cannot justify or excuse her Government to any one respect in this scandalous story. We have been told that the leaking of the letter was authorised by her office. It was conveyed at her office, she says with her subsequent endorsement.

We have to ask, with her centralised and specialised style of government, where the leak was on January 23? She could not be contacted on a matter as basic and central as this?

What was authorised was a conspiracy by people in the Department of Trade and Industry and her office to disclose certain parts of a letter written by a Law Officer to a member of the Cabinet about a matter important in public business.

That was their way of putting it in the public domain, out by speed means but by subterfuge and disreputable means.

We have been told that there was an inquiry. There had been answers in this House from ministers, including the Prime Minister that an inquiry was being undertaken in the normal fashion.

Why was there an inquiry when everybody knew? (Labour cheers). Why was there an inquiry when everybody knew there would be no prosecution because a disposition had been made?

The only comparable precedent for this act of covert insouciance is the way Macbeth so fiercely looked around for the murderers of Duncan.

Mr Kinnock said that the Prime Minister that immunity was offered. Why was that the case when it was plain that there was to be no prosecution?

We have heard a shabby story, offered to me for the first time, is that the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and everybody else involved would have got away with it, were it not for the fact that the Prime Minister had ultimately to make a statement.

They would have dealt with the former member of the Cabinet, and Secretary of State for Defence, not by the means available to the Prime Minister, if she believed he was acting contrary to the national interest - to sack him - but trying dishonestly and covertly to subvert him.

For the Government to leak to inform and influence public opinion is normal. For a Government to leak to discredit a colleague is shameful. For a Government to leak to subvert a member of the Government is reprehensible.

Mr Kinnock said that the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and everybody else involved would have got away with it, were it not for the fact that the Prime Minister had ultimately to make a statement.

I agree, as I have indicated, that there would be a more correct method, that the letter will not be consulted, as I have indicated.

I instituted an inquiry and Mr Kinnock would have been the first to castigate me if I had not.

I instituted an inquiry starting on January 14, to find out the full facts because the full facts were not known. The inquiry reported on January 22 and I have made a full statement today, January 23.

Sir Edward Gardner (Plyde, C): It is suggested that the case, the People's Bureau in London who was expelled after the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, was unique. The Prime Minister told the Commons that the explanation given would be allowed to return to Britain.

Mr Dennis Walters (Westbury, C) said during Commons questions that WPC Fletcher's parents, who lived in his constituency, were understandably upset at the decision to allow the return of a member of the bureau to England and to Wiltshire.

Will the Prime Minister (he asked) assure that the letter will not be asked upon as a precedent for other members of the bureau?

Mrs Thatcher: I believe the case was unique. Mr Ben Rabb applied for a visa to re-enter the United Kingdom to rejoin his English wife and children.

The application was rejected by the Home Office, because of his presence in the bureau during the shooting. He exercised his right of appeal and the adjudicator found in his favour. (Some cries of "Shame".)

from further damage? If he had not fulfilled that duty he would have been failing in his duty as Secretary of State.

Mr Thatcher: His analysis is correct. The Government had a duty to ensure that no misleading statements were made and that any such inaccuracy had to come into the public domain at the relevant time because commercial judgements were about to be taken.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party: Her whole statement reveals yet another chapter of shabby and astonishing behaviour in the higher reaches of her Government. She owes this House and the Civil Service an apology.

She has allowed nine days of a charade of an inquiry. She could have cleared up the whole matter, by calling in the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and her own press officer, in 10 minutes. Why was the Solicitor General not told that his letter was going to be used in that way? Why was the Secretary of State for Defence not told that the letter would be made public?

Why, if it was so important to make it public, was there not a clear Government statement of policy rather than using this hole-in-corner method? If she were living in

the real world outside and conducted this inquiry she would now be on a charge of wasting police time.

Mrs Thatcher: The inquiry was set up to establish the facts. Had I refused the demand for an inquiry he would have criticised me. The inquiry established many facts which were not known to me. He said he would have done it without an inquiry, that is not what he would have said.

Mr Alec Fletcher (Edinburgh Central, C): There are Conservative MPs whose chief consideration in this matter is the integrity of government. Is she satisfied that her statement this afternoon has enhanced the integrity of her Government?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I have tried, having set up an inquiry and having seen the full report yesterday, to give as full an account as I possibly can because the House deserved to have it.

Mr Michael Foot (Blennau Gwent, Lab): Does she recall that a week ago when I asked the question she said the inquiry was going ahead, but it was not the custom to make a report to the House and she was not going to do so. When she gave that answer she must have known all the facts, so she concealed them from the House and country. When will she apologise for that?

Mrs Thatcher: No, he is not correct. I did not know all the facts. That is why an inquiry was set up. It is not the usual tradition or custom to give the outcome of these inquiries. There have been rare exceptions when that has been the case.

When I got the result of this inquiry I knew there would have to be another exception when a full statement would have to be made.

Mr Michael Colvill (Romey and Waterside, C): If we need a lesson to be learned, it is that we should not be leaking what we have only to remember the Crossman and Castle diaries from which we have learned that previous Labour governments leaked like a sieve.

Mrs Thatcher: A different way would have occurred had there been a report to the House and she was not going to do so. When she gave that answer she must have known all the facts, so she concealed them from the House and country. When will she apologise for that?

Mrs Thatcher: No, he is not correct. I did not know all the facts. That is why an inquiry was set up. It is not the usual tradition or custom to give the outcome of these inquiries. There have been rare exceptions when that has been the case.

When I got the result of this inquiry I knew there would have to be another exception when a full statement would have to be made.

Mr Michael Colvill (Romey and Waterside, C): If we need a lesson to be learned, it is that we should not be leaking what we have only to remember the Crossman and Castle diaries from which we have learned that previous Labour governments leaked like a sieve.

Mrs Thatcher: A different way would have occurred had there been a report to the House and she was not going to do so. When she gave that answer she must have known all the facts, so she concealed them from the House and country. When will she apologise for that?

Mrs Thatcher: No, he is not correct. I did not know all the facts. That is why an inquiry was set up. It is not the usual tradition or custom to give the outcome of these inquiries. There have been rare exceptions when that has been the case.

When I got the result of this inquiry I knew there would have to be another exception when a full statement would have to be made.

Mr Michael Colvill (Romey and Waterside, C): If we need a lesson to be learned, it is that we should not be leaking what we have only to remember the Crossman and Castle diaries from which we have learned that previous Labour governments leaked like a sieve.

Mrs Thatcher: A different way would have occurred had there been a report to the House and she was not going to do so. When she gave that answer she must have known all the facts, so she concealed them from the House and country. When will she apologise for that?

Mrs Thatcher: No, he is not correct. I did not know all the facts. That is why an inquiry was set up. It is not the usual tradition or custom to give the outcome of these inquiries. There have been rare exceptions when that has been the case.

When I got the result of this inquiry I knew there would have to be another exception when a full statement would have to be made.

Mr Michael Colvill (Romey and Waterside, C): If we need a lesson to be learned, it is that we should not be leaking what we have only to remember the Crossman and Castle diaries from which we have learned that previous Labour governments leaked like a sieve.

Mrs Thatcher: A different way would have occurred had there been a report to the House and she was not going to do so. When she gave that answer she must have known all the facts, so she concealed them from the House and country. When will she apologise for that?

Mrs Thatcher: No, he is not correct. I did not know all the facts. That is why an inquiry was set up. It is not the usual tradition or custom to give the outcome of these inquiries. There have been rare exceptions when that has been the case.

information, it was vital to have correct information in the public domain. It was to get the information in the public domain I gave my consent.

Mr Jack Dornand (Eastington, Lab): The Prime Minister said it was an open decision taken by No 10 to release the letter to the PA. Did she release the letter to the PA. Did she release the letter to the PA. Did she release the letter to the PA.

Mr Chris Moncrieff (chief political correspondent to the PA) on the 9 o'clock news on television last night, who said there was not any way in which he was going to reveal where it came from, who it came from, or any details of it.

There is no more honourable member of the Press Gallery than Mr Chris Moncrieff. Why would he say these words in contradiction of what the Prime Minister has told the House this afternoon?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not believe there is a contradiction. I have set out the full facts as a result of the inquiry. I have set them out extremely carefully and accurately and I hope that he will consider them with the same care as I have given to expressing them.

Mr Roy Jenkins (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP): As she said, the Government went deeper into the bog of deceit and chicanery, almost her only remaining memorable words will be there were commercial decisions involved. Previous governments prior to her own have been activated by higher considerations.

Mrs Thatcher: When commercial decisions of different reconstructions are made on the basis of the inquiry, the legal obligations follow that the information shall not be misleading. I would have hoped that he might have accepted that.

Mr Patric Carmack (South Staffordshire, SDP): The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry addressed this House at length last week. Did he know he had authorized this leak?

Mrs Thatcher: The inquiry was under way. The inquiry has now reported. (The inquiry has now reported.)

Mr Tom Doherty (Lindisfarne, Lab): When did the Prime Minister's press office first tell her what they had done?

Mrs Thatcher: I have given a full account of the inquiry I established.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Warrington, Lab): When the people of this country in the future examine these days, they will say that the Prime Minister did not tell the truth. (Conservative cheers.)

In 1963 Mr Profumo had admitted his contempt in deliberately misleading the House. This matter would be best dealt with by matters of privilege or by the nature of the contempt.

Mrs Thatcher: No, I totally reject and resent Mr Campbell-Savours' assertions.

Mr Norman St John-Stevas (Chelmsford, C): Whatever the faults of the Government in handling this situation, and there have been many, it is nothing to justify the charge of hypocrisy and cant we have had to endure from Opposition MPs.

Mrs Thatcher said throughout she had thought it vital that Westlands made a choice on the basis of correct and not misleading information.

Mr Nigel Spearling (Newham South, Lab) asked to whom was Mr Bernard Ingham, her press secretary, accountable and who was responsible for the decision to blow up in such a spectacular fashion.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Ingham has served successive governments with great devotion and dedication. I have great confidence in him.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent South, Lab): Does Mrs Thatcher

so that they could establish the facts. I have indicated that I was not consulted at the time.

Mr George Gardiner (Reigate, C) said he was a political correspondent for 13 years and the events in the DTI had not changed one jot from what were regular practices. If there was any criticism on the Conservative benches it was that a relatively minor matter should have been blown up in such a spectacular fashion.

Mrs Thatcher: It would have been much easier, as the facts were commercially sensitive, if the relevant letters had been cleared, as was mine, with the Solicitor General. It is because we knew that judgments may be founded upon them and the Government could be liable if wrong judgments were made as a result of misleading

colleagues than was exhibited during this period by Mr Heseltine.

If you look at many of the things that have happened, that was one of the reasons why it was so difficult to carry on Cabinet Government in this period. I did not see in what the then Secretary of State for Defence did, anything which made joint Cabinet responsibility at all possible.

Because of what happened, I feel deeply and bitterly at the way I personally, as a Cabinet minister, was treated over that period of time and so indeed do my colleagues and

colleagues than was exhibited during this period by Mr Heseltine.

If you look at many of the things that have happened, that was one of the reasons why it was so difficult to carry on Cabinet Government in this period. I did not see in what the then Secretary of State for Defence did, anything which made joint Cabinet responsibility at all possible.

Whitelaw attacks Heseltine

Viscount Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords, made a personal attack on Mr Heseltine's conduct after repeating the statement in the House of Lords.

I am not in the business of seeking deliberately to run down my colleagues (he said) or to be unpleasant about other people in other parties. But I am bound to say having observed what went on at close quarters, I have never in my time in the Cabinet seen more extraordinary behaviour in his Prime Minister and indeed to all his

colleagues than was exhibited during this period by Mr Heseltine.

If you look at many of the things that have happened, that was one of the reasons why it was so difficult to carry on Cabinet Government in this period. I did not see in what the then Secretary of State for Defence did, anything which made joint Cabinet responsibility at all possible.

Because of what happened, I feel deeply and bitterly at the way I personally, as a Cabinet minister, was treated over that period of time and so indeed do my colleagues and

colleagues than was exhibited during this period by Mr Heseltine.

If you look at many of the things that have happened, that was one of the reasons why it was so difficult to carry on Cabinet Government in this period. I did not see in what the then Secretary of State for Defence did, anything which made joint Cabinet responsibility at all possible.

Because of what happened, I feel deeply and bitterly at the way I personally, as a Cabinet minister, was treated over that period of time and so indeed do my colleagues and

colleagues than was exhibited during this period by Mr Heseltine.

If you look at many of the things that have happened, that was one of the reasons why it was so difficult to carry on Cabinet Government in this period. I did not see in what the then Secretary of State for Defence did, anything which made joint Cabinet responsibility at all possible.

Because of what happened, I feel deeply and bitterly at the way I personally, as a Cabinet minister, was treated over that period of time and so indeed do my colleagues and

colleagues than was exhibited during this period by Mr Heseltine.

Rate support in Scotland

Aggregate Exchequer grant for 1986-87 will be £2,008.65m. Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said in moving the Scottish rate support grant order in the Commons late on Wednesday night. It was 56.1 per cent of relevant expenditure, a reduction on the grant percentage in the current year.

This was to put further pressure on authorities to bring their spending into line. Final out-turns were above provisional estimates for many authorities, so grant percentages, such as Lothian Region, was showing further reductions in expenditure and thus also reductions in penalties.

If local authorities spent sensibly there was every reason why any increase should be on the basis of the new guidelines, that would mean no grant penalties and the overall level of rates would come down.

The order was carried by 221 votes to 180 - Government majority 41.

The order was carried by 221 votes to 180 - Government majority 41.

The order was carried by 221 votes to 180 - Government majority 41.

The order was carried by 221 votes to 180 - Government majority 41.

The order was carried by 221 votes to 180 - Government majority 41.

The order was carried by 221 votes to 180 - Government majority 41.

The order was carried by 221 votes to 180 - Government majority 41.

The order was carried by 221 votes to 180 - Government majority 41.

The order was carried by 221 votes to 180 - Government majority 41.

Defence of Irish plea by doctor

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

It would take a long time to find a precedent for the proceedings in the House of Commons yesterday. The Prime Minister was acknowledging that an official inquiry had been set up to discover the facts of a leak of information which had been authorized by her own office.

As always, Mrs Margaret Thatcher's nerve was breathtaking. But she was unable to remove the impression that the inquiry had been a charade, designed to conceal the truth if that had been possible, and that yesterday's disclosure was being made simply because it had been forced upon her. The dangerous suspicion that the Government had been perpetrating a trick was not dissolved by her statement or by her answers to questions.

For much of the time, the expression on the faces of Conservative backbenchers varied between stoicism and anguish. As time went on, with questions and answers on Mrs Thatcher's statement, the Conservatives began to recover their voices and to shout back at the jubilant Opposition benches.

It is the considered reaction of the Conservative Party to the Commons that will be the Government's immediate concern. If their ranks do not hold, Mrs Thatcher and other ministers will be in very serious trouble. No doubt with that consideration in mind, a deliberate attempt to rally Conservative spirits, was made in particular by Mr Cranleigh Onslow, the chairman of the 1922 Committee.

The principal argument used by Mrs Thatcher's defenders was that the uncertain position of the Westland company made it necessary for accurate information to be publicly available before Sir John Cuckney, the chairman of the chairman of the company, held a press conference on the afternoon of January 6.

Unpleasant taste

In other words, the alleged inaccuracies in a letter from Mr Michael Heseltine three days before had to be publicly corrected as a matter of urgency.

Even if it were accepted that Mr Heseltine's letter did contain inaccuracies, which is hotly disputed, that would not explain why parts of the Solicitor General's letter were disclosed in such a damaging fashion without either his approval or Mr Heseltine's. The prime minister expressed her regret at the manner of disclosure - her one concession to her critics - but that does not dispose of all questions.

Government and journalists live by leaks, and it would be wrong to be sanctimonious about indirect disclosures of official information out of the process of government would be even more secretive than it is.

Yet it still leaves an unpleasant taste in the mouth that ministers should leak such information in a way that was calculated to inflict the greatest personal damage on the very colleague whom they have been criticizing for failing to accept the discipline of collective cabinet responsibility.

None the less, unpleasant as it has been, extraordinary though the Prime Minister's statement was, will all the future prove to be more than a nine-day wonder? May it even turn out to be one of those political excitements which raise the temperature more at Westminster than in the country?

Uncertainties remain

That is what most Conservative MPs will be hoping. Their instinct to draw together in times of trouble should never be underestimated. I think this is now the dominant wish of most of them.

But I doubt if the present controversy will be so quickly set to rest. Frank as she was about some things, Mrs Thatcher did not manage to clear up all uncertainties yesterday.

In particular, she was unwilling to provide a direct and unequivocal answer as to when she knew that her office had authorized the leak of the Solicitor General's letter.

This means that the pursuit will continue, and that attention will now focus more directly on her conduct. Whatever may be thought of Mr Leon Brittan's actions, I do not see that he should be expected to carry sole responsibility for an action authorized by the Prime Minister's office.

There is nothing the Government and the Conservative party would like more than to draw a line under this whole sorry business. But it is hard to do that with selective frankness.

Presidential campaign

Portugal's tense election pits united right against three left-wing contenders

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon

Portugal's presidential elections on Sunday have turned into a tense tug-of-war over different views of society.

The break-up last summer of a centrist coalition Government made up of Socialists and Social Democrats already threatened such a polarization between right and left, and last October's inconclusive general election made it unavoidable. A minority Social Democrat government, led by Senhor Anibal Cavaco Silva emerged, with the support of only 30 per cent of the voters.

This explains why Professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral, the candidate of a united Portuguese right, will face a second round run-off in mid-February. After yesterday's withdrawal by the Communist candidate, he still faces three well-known opponents on the left.

President Antonio Eanes, who cannot constitutionally have a third term, won his two five-year spells in office with outright majorities the first time of asking.

The campaign has resembled a primary between Dr Mario Soares, the former Socialist Prime Minister, and two rivals. One is Dr Francisco Salgado Zenha, once his number two in

the Socialist Party and now engaged in a contest which is bound to worsen the party's post-electoral fortunes.

The other is Senhora Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, a doughty Catholic professional woman who was briefly Prime Minister in 1979. She has lent a "Third World" flavour to the campaign, rather as Lieutenant-Colonel Otelo Saraiva, the 1974 revolutionary hero who is now on trial as a terrorist, did in a previous presidential contest.

Having lost the October elections, Portugal's left is striving hard for the presidency. It is an influential post, as President Eanes has shown, but it can also be a frequent source of conflict with the Government.

Dr Soares was out campaigning yesterday on central Lisbon streets. He avoided working-class districts, however, perhaps after being physically assaulted earlier in the campaign in central Portugal by factory workers who were protesting that their salaries had not been paid for months.

His basic strategy is still to seek the middle-of-road vote, especially among those Social Democrats who regard Pro-

fessor Freitas as too right wing. The former Prime Minister has gone down well in the conservative north.

Dr Soares, whose spirits have revived since the severe rebuff given him last October, is evidently still hoping to crown his career with the presidency, assisted perhaps by a "consolation vote" from the Portuguese who do not much care for politics but like his personal image of bonhomie, stability and shunning of extremes.

Dr Zenha, his rival, is the candidate publicly favoured by President Eanes, whose wife, Manuela, has campaigned for the 62-year-old lawyer.

The Communists have also contributed to the polarization by telling their supporters to back Dr Zenha. This explained the successful day he had in Lisbon's industrial belt south of the River Tagus.

Both the Communists and the Democratic renewal Party which President Eanes will soon be leading after stepping down are exploiting the decline in Socialist fortunes.

Whoever wins, Portugal will have a President who is not drawn from the armed forces for the first time in more than 50 years.

Bonn gives Japanese respite from trade issue

From Frank Johnson

Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Foreign Minister, who is touring European capitals, seems to have been given some respite here from what for him is the usual topic: his country's alleged inhospitality towards non-Japanese goods (Frank Johnson writes).

Yesterday, Mr Abe had talks with the West German Chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl, and the Foreign Minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher. On Tuesday his two-day visit had begun with a meeting with Herr Genscher.

Alleged Japanese protectionism apparently was raised by the West Germans, but not with the same passion as in other capitals, including London, where Mr Abe apparently was addressed vigorously on the subject by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Although West Germany has a trade deficit with Japan, it is not so large as that of other European countries.

The talks also covered the United States' Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) since Japan is shortly to follow West Germany in sending a delegation to Washington to see what contracts it can win from the SDI. Mr Abe also briefed his hosts on the recent improvements in Soviet-Japanese relations after the first visit to Japan by a Soviet Foreign Minister for 10 years.



Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Foreign Minister, greeting Chancellor Kohl of West Germany before their talks in Bonn yesterday.

Accused politician meets two ministers

From M. G. G. Pillai

Kuala Lumpur

Mr Daim Zainuddin and Mr Richard Hu, the Malaysian and Singapore Finance Ministers, held talks in Singapore yesterday as Mr Tan Koon Swan, the prominent Malaysian businessman and politician, pleaded not guilty to six charges of criminal breach of trust totalling 5.5 million Singapore dollars (£1.8 million).

The charges relate to the collapse of Pan Electric Industries, a Singapore-based conglomerate with about 90 subsidiaries and offices in 60 countries, last December. Mr Tan was arrested on Tuesday, while he was attempting a rescue operation of the company.

Mr Tan was released on 20 million Singapore dollars bail, the highest ever set by a Singapore court, but he cannot leave Singapore because his passport was impounded. The hearing is set for January 30.

No details of the talks are available but Mr Daim said in a statement after meeting Mr Hu and Mr Tan that he would report to Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister.

Mr Tan is President of the Malaysian Chinese Association, a senior partner of the ruling coalition, and the arrest has embarrassed Malaysia and appears to have strained relations between the two countries.

Gandhi complex contest

The Indian government has launched an international architectural competition for an arts complex in Delhi commemorating Indira Gandhi (Charles Knecht writes).

The winner is to receive the equivalent of £57,000 and the commission. The buildings are expected to cost at least £50 million.

The National Arts Centre will be built on a 25-acre site on two city acres of Sir Edwin Lutyens's master-plan for Delhi.

Rambo-style mission to Laos failed

Paris (AP) - Three American Vietnam war veterans tried unsuccessfully last September to free an American believed to be held in a Laotian labour camp.

The Paris daily *Le Figaro* reported yesterday in an interview with a Frenchman who said he took part in the mission. It quoted M Pierre O'Reilly, identified as a French businessman, aged 43, now living in California, as saying he contributed \$23,000 (£16,000) to the private effort, codenamed "Snatch."

Interviewed during a visit to Paris, M O'Reilly told *Le Figaro* the mission was planned after the American veterans received information from unspecified contacts in Thailand and Laos that a Laotian Army captain would trade an American Vietnam-War era prisoner for a sum of money and guarantees of safe passage out of Laos for himself and his family. The informants claimed the American was seriously ill.

But when the three Americans slipped into Laos secretly on September 24, the Laotian officer demanded \$40,000 instead of the \$30,000 the team had brought and the deal fell through.

M O'Reilly, who said he accompanied the team as far as Bangkok, added that the Americans returned to the US where they were trying to raise additional money for a second mission.

"I put \$23,000 into this affair strictly for humanitarian reasons," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "These Vietnam veterans are very convinced that their comrades are still alive and they are waiting to get them out of there."

He identified the three-man team as former Marine Sergeant Winnie Arnone, aged 39, and two other veterans, Ken O'Connell and Kevin Hannaford.

On September 17, the three flew from Boston to Paris, where M O'Reilly was waiting. The four then travelled to Bangkok, from where the three-man team slipped into Laos by boat across the Mekong river and made their way with a Laotian guide to a village in central Laos.

Reagan's pledge on abortion

From Michael Binyon

Washington

President Reagan told the annual rally here on Wednesday of the anti-abortion "pro-life" lobbyists that an alternative to abortion had to be found and renewed his pledge that no government funds would be used for abortions in the United States of abroad.

Speaking by a radio link from the White House to several thousand demonstrators gathered outside Mr Reagan said he was proud to be associated with the march. He cited Mother Teresa, who visited him recently in the White House by saying that abortion was the greatest destroyer of peace. To cheers and applause he called for respect for "the most basic of civil rights - the right to life". He urged the rally's leaders later in the day.

Abortion opponents have been marching and lobbying for 13 years to end legal abortion in the US, but the Reagan Administration, though sympathetic, has carefully avoided any commitment to seek a constitutional amendment overturning the 1973 Supreme Court decision on abortion. His message was essentially the same as that to a similar rally here last year.

THE ACTION BANK · THE ACTION BANK · THE ACTION BANK · THE ACTION BANK · THE ACTION BANK



It's where the investment connoisseur keeps his readies.

It's called the NatWest Special Reserve Account. It's an original. It's rather select.

And all you need to take advantage of it is a NatWest Current Account, plus £2,000 or more to invest. (After that, £250 is the minimum deposit or withdrawal.)

On the one hand, you'll enjoy all the benefits of a higher interest investment account. Currently earning a healthy 8.875% (£10,000+ earns even more).

Yet on the other, you can make withdrawals through your Current Account without any advance notice. This allows your investment to earn interest in full, right up until the last minute. What's more, any personal Current Account linked to a Special Reserve Account is of course free of normal account charges provided it's in

credit. All of which leaves just one question. Why isn't your money enjoying the same privileges? Ask about a NatWest Special Reserve Account.

Cut the coupon or pop into NatWest and we'll give you all the information you need.

It's reassuring to know that your investment is always at the ready.

SPECIAL RESERVE ACCOUNT

To: The Manager, National Westminster Bank PLC, FREEPOST, Hounslow TW4 5BR.

Please send me more information about the Special Reserve Account

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Rates may vary, but correct at time of going to press. Ask at your local branch for details of current rates

THE ACTION BANK · THE ACTION BANK · NatWest · THE ACTION BANK · THE ACTION BANK

Zulu-Pondo feud erupts again as 30 die in Natal tribal battles

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

At least 30 deaths were reported in renewed clashes yesterday and Wednesday between Zulus and Xhosa-speaking Pondos in the Umbumbulu coastal area south of Durban, where more than 60 people were killed in fighting over Christmas. Police expect even more bodies will be found.

Reporters who went to the scene said about 500 Pondos and 1,000 Zulus were involved in running battles with spears, knives, sticks, hatchets, knobkerries and primitive home-made guns.

A police anti-riot squad came under attack from Pondo mobs when it tried to separate the warring factions and had to use guns and tear gas to control the situation. A police spokesman said 484 Pondos were arrested and would be charged with public violence.

The trouble began on Wednesday afternoon when a party of Zulus attacked Pondos returning home from work in Durban as they got off the train at Isipingo station. One Pondo was set alight and later died from his burns in hospital.

Early yesterday, about 500 Pondos made a retaliatory raid into Zulu territory at Kwamak-hutha, but the Zulus were expecting them and drove them back towards the shanty settlements at Malagazi and Umbom-gwini.

As they retreated, the Pondos attacked a shop and liquor store owned by Mr Roy Mbongwe, a member of the legislative assembly of the KwaZulu tribal homeland, but were driven off by Mr Mbongwe's son who opened fire on the mob with a shotgun.

The pursuing Zulus eventually caught their prey and the fighting raged for several hours until brought to a stop by police. Many Pondos' shacks were set on fire - some by Pondos themselves before they were taken away by police.

With most of the country reserved for the use and occupation of the white minority, there is intense competition among blacks for land and squatter sites, particularly close to industrial areas where jobs can be found which are not available in the poverty-stricken tribal homelands.

In recent years, Pondos, who come from the Transkei homeland, have migrated northwards in large numbers to the Umbumbulu area, which lies in traditional Zulu territory on the edge of new industrial development south of Durban. Zulus resent the Pondos as interlopers.

Meanwhile, Transvaal police are investigating reports that black miners who killed two white policemen when they tried to break up a union meeting on Tuesday had been treated by a *sangoma* (witch doctor) and believed they had been given immunity to police bullets.

Small cuts were made on the necks, foreheads and other parts of the miners' bodies and these were then smeared with some kind of *umuli*, an African medicinal potion, according to a spokesman for the mine west of Johannesburg where the incident occurred. This is said to explain why the miners were not deterred by shots from the two policemen's pistols.

A total of 250 people have been arrested as a result of the clash, and 11 miners have been charged with murder. The two policemen, the first white police to die in the unrest, will be buried with full military honours today.

CAPE TOWN: A postal worker was injured yesterday when a suspected letter bomb exploded in a mailbag at a railway station sorting office here (Reuters reports).

The mailbag was labelled for Luanda, capital of neighbouring Angola. The station's chief postal inspector told the South African Press Association that after the explosion there were thousands of papers floating in the air in the postal sorting section. The postal worker was injured in the leg and taken to hospital.



Zulu warriors standing at the roadside near Kwa Makhutha south of Durban during a full in the tribal faction fighting with rival Pondos which has claimed 30 lives.

Refugees face move from Lesotho

New York (AFP) - Lesotho's new military ruler, Major-General Justo Lekhanya, has informed the United Nations that he plans to send all South African refugees in his country to "second countries of asylum". Major-General Lekhanya, in a letter to the UN Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, said, however, that his government would not turn the refugees over to South Africa.

Minister detained: A former Lesotho Cabinet Minister is in detention and others are under varying degrees of house arrest, according to diplomatic sources.

in Maseru (Michael Hornsby writes). Otherwise there is little hard information about the fate of members of the former Government and its Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan. The arrested minister is said to be Mr Francis Matholeane.

ABC to go ahead with 'Amerika' TV series

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The US television network which shelved its plans to make a drama series about America under the Russian heel has now decided to go ahead with the programme after complaints that the network had caved in to Russian pressure.

The series, written but as yet unfilmed, will depict a drab America ten years after a bloodless coup by the KGB. It is called *Amerika* and is intended as a major ratings-booster for the ABC network, which is ranked third of the three in terms of viewing figures.

Amerika was in a list of films, with *Rambo*, *Rocky IV* and *Red Dawn*, recently criticized by the Russians as likely to encourage hatred. In the United States, too, the project was described as a hindrance to better relations with the Soviet Union.

Earlier this month ABC said it was postponing the series, chiefly for budgetary reasons. But another consideration was a warning from the Soviet Foreign Ministry that it would be "unfortunate" if the relationship between ABC News in Moscow and Russian officials were to suffer because of the series.

Although some US newspapers and other commentators expressed relief at the shelving of what they thought a foolish idea, conservative commentators were affronted that an American network had bowed to Russian pressure.

Thus, the question became one not only of budget, but also of "standing tall". The 12-part series will be broadcast next year and, says ABC, will be about freedom and the American character.

Marx and Party turn off China readers

From Mary Lee, Peking

The mouthpiece of the Chinese Communist Party, the *People's Daily*, is losing its voice through falling circulation, according to a newspaper survey published in the *China Daily* yesterday. The report said the *People's Daily's* 1986 circulation (established through subscriptions registered last December with the Postal Bureau, which distributes all publications) stands at 3.68 million, representing a 8.6 per cent drop in circulation in a year.

In fact, the *People's Daily* has lost considerably more readers since 1983, when it sold six million copies. Diplomats attribute its declining circulation to several factors, including the loss of public interest in party pronouncements.

One Chinese intellectual commented: "Few individuals buy the *People's Daily*. Nearly all the subscriptions are taken out by work units who must have a copy of it in the office. Even then, few people read it with any interest. No one cares about the internal-party debates about Marxism any more."

Officially, however, the cause of the decline is seen as the proliferation of local tabloids and other specialist publications. Forty such newspapers, now command a total circulation of more than seven million. The other three national party newspapers - the *Economic Daily*, *Guangming Daily* and the *Liberation Army Daily* - have also suffered fall-offs.

Chinese magazines which use foreign pin-ups on their covers and which deal with lifestyle, fashion, furniture, films and sports have apparently taken away millions of readers from party newspapers.

Uranus moons clue to mystery of rings

Pasadena, California (AFP) - NASA technicians were flashing final radio instructions, which take three hours to arrive, to the US space probe Voyager 2 yesterday as it neared a historic rendezvous with Uranus today.

But Voyager, nearly eight years after being launched and now nearly two billion miles from Earth, was already unlocking some of the planet's secrets, having reported two further moons, wind and cloud.

It was the first time an atmosphere had been detected around Uranus, the seventh planet in the solar system and third-biggest after Jupiter and Saturn.

Voyager's photographs showed Uranus like a huge blue-green striped billiard ball, technicians said at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Their aim was to manoeuvre Voyager into the best position to observe Uranus as it slips past at more than 46,000 miles an hour today, a mere 50,625 miles away.

The two new small moons

already located by Voyager brought its number of discerned moons to 14. Five had already been observed by telescope from Earth and seven others were photographed by Voyager in the past few weeks.

The two "new" ones appeared to be the first detached of the 18 which astronomers suspect operate in pairs, "escorting" and stabilizing by gravity Uranus's nine surrounding rings. Uranus may have up to 30 moons.

But many mysteries remained to be solved, including what the rings themselves consist of, and what "climate" and atmosphere lie under a heavy enveloping gassy cloud. It is also unclear if Uranus has a magnetic field.

Photographs transmitted by Voyager 2 have revealed a brownish haze at its south pole. Scientists also reported that the pictures showed the five largest moons were distinctly different from one another in appearance and brightness (NYT reports). Leading article, page 13

Cruise missile goes astray by 35 miles

From John Best, Ottawa

American and Canadian experts yesterday were seeking to find the cause of a malfunction on a US cruise missile at the end of a test flight over north-western Canada on Wednesday.

The air-launched missile came down 35 miles from where it was supposed to land after a four-hour flight from high over the Canadian Arctic to the Canadian forces base at Cold Lake, Alberta.

Yesterday, a Canadian-American team set out to recover it. It was spotted by a helicopter crew shortly before dusk on Wednesday, hours after the missile's unplanned landing.

Captain Yves Genereux, a Canadian military spokesman, said: "We have no idea of the extent of the damage." The missile came down five minutes earlier than planned as it was making a series of programmed loops around the instrument range to burn off excess fuel. Some reports said a parachute that was supposed to open in the final moments failed to deploy, causing the unarmed cruise to crash.

Anger over free Concorde trip by UN envoys

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

A group of ambassadors from countries serving on the United Nations Security Council has accepted an invitation for a trip to Paris and a wine tasting tour in the heart of Burgundy that has struck many diplomatic observers as a journey too enjoyable to be appropriate.

M Claude de Kemoularia, the French Ambassador to the UN, arranged the trip for his colleagues on the Council despite the prevailing climate of austerity at the UN and the ongoing struggle by the Security Council for it to be taken seriously.

The permanent representatives of Britain, the US, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and the Soviet Union have declined the invitation, but for those willing M de Kemoularia has arranged the free flight to Paris, compliments of Air France, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Concorde.

The Security Council on Wednesday adjourned debate until Monday on a complaint by Islamic countries that Israel had profaned the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

Four EEC nations reject Danish reform objection

By Our Foreign Staff

Four EEC nations have rejected Denmark's demand to renegotiate the Luxembourg package of EEC reforms.

M Ronald Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, said after dining with Mr Uffe Elleman-Jensen, the Danish Foreign Minister, in Paris on Wednesday night that there could be no question of renegotiating it.

He believed the Danish Parliament's objections were based on "false problems and errors of interpretation". West German Foreign Minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Gen-

scher, told reporters after talks with Mr Elleman-Jensen that a Danish rejection of the package would be seen as rejection of the Community.

Spain is also opposed to any renegotiation, the Spanish Foreign Minister, Señor Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, said in Madrid where Mr Elleman-Jensen was also a visitor.

Finally, Greece gave its "thumbs-down". Mr Theodoros Pangalos, the deputy Foreign Minister, told an Athens press conference that his country had achieved important objectives during the negotiations.

YOU'VE GOT UNTIL FEBRUARY 2ND TO BUY A 1986 RENAULT AT A 1985 PRICE.



RENAULT 9 AND 11 BROADWAY

The 1986 Renault range looks great. It looks even better when you know that you can pick up any Renault model

before February 2nd at prices that have more than a hint of nostalgia.

Not surprising. They are last year's.

However, all good things must come to an end. And on February 2nd, we are going to put our prices up.

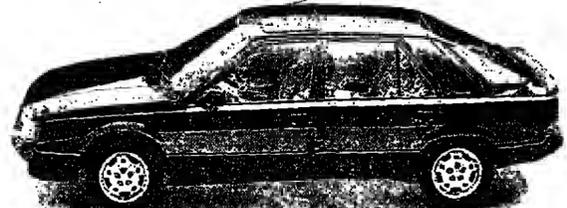


RENAULT 18 DEAUVILLE

So that we can make our standards even higher.

At midnight, February 2nd to be precise.

Now you can't say we kept you in the dark.



RENAULT 25

TALK TO YOUR DEALER NOW!

For a brochure write to Renault UK Ltd., PO Box 36, Southall, Middx. Ask your dealer about Renault Care mechanical breakdown cover. West End showroom, 77 St. Martin's Lane, London, WC2. Renault recommend Giff lubricants.

Reluctant Israeli MPs agree on tough new budget cuts

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Reluctantly but dutifully the most Labour members of the Knesset have voted for a first reading of another very tough budget for Israel. It will cut government spending in almost every department and will almost certainly increase unemployment.

Mrs Ora Namir admitted she had to grit her teeth in order to vote for the budget, and most of her colleagues in the House felt the same. But members generally accepted the argument of Mr Yitzhak Mordechai, the Finance Minister, that continued austerity was crucial for the Israeli economy. He said that the tough measures already in force were beginning to create stability, but more effort was needed. He said Israel would "be able to live honourably and comfortably from their own work".

One of the few to abstain was the Secretary General of the Histadrut Labour Federation, Mr Yisrael Kessar, who must soon lead national wage negotiations on behalf of his members. He said 40 per cent of the unemployed were in the 18-24 age group and the clear message of the budget to young people seeking work after finishing national service was: "We are healing the economy. Don't count on us to find your a job".

The lion's share (40 per cent) of the \$21,600 million budget will be needed to pay interest and debts factored before the government's austerity programme began 18 months ago. Defence will continue to take a quarter, though extensive pruning in military spending has been carried out. Defence

Ministry officials claim that the cuts are endangering national security and that an extra \$500 million is needed just to confront present risks.

Pensions and social security payments take about 18 per cent, with only 10 per cent left for non-military spending and 7 per cent earmarked for investment.

Cuts imposed include \$43 million from education, with parents being made to pay \$60 in an annual levy for each of the first two schoolchildren in a family. Another \$63 million is being slashed from the national insurance budget, \$23 million from health services and \$8 million in other welfare departments.

Some savings will come from making another 4,000 public servants redundant, in addition to the 14,000 laid off over the past 18 months.

The Finance Ministry estimates that with this budget the economy should grow by a modest 2.4 per cent this year after declining 3 per cent last year. This small growth will not stop a further increase in unemployment, which averaged 4.5 per cent last year, to about 7.4 per cent.

Israel's total revenue will still fall well short of needed spending. Only substantial American aid can make the books balance.

Since American economic aid worldwide is now being cut by 4.3 per cent, Israel has just had to hand back \$51 million of the \$1,200 million it received last October, or 4.3 per cent of its receipts from the US. On its own Israel receives one-third of all American economic aid. Leading article, page 13



Mrs Corazon Aquino, opposition candidate in the Philippines presidential election, and her vice-presidential running mate, Mr Salvador Laurel, with a placard bearing her nickname, at an election rally in Butuan, Mindanao Island.

Marcos defends his war record

Manila (Reuter) - President Marcos, commenting on foreign press reports that his Second World War military record claims are false, yesterday invited war veterans to answer for him.

Mr Marcos, campaigning in the Manila shanty town district of Tondo, told a crowd estimated by reporters at

40,000: "Our opponents said that Marcos was not a true guerrilla, that he was not in the thick of the fight. The (war) veterans should answer that accusation."

The *New York Times* reported yesterday that US Army records discovered last year say there is no basis for Mr Marcos's claims that he was a

guerrilla leader during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines.

President Marcos, who is 68, has emphasized his war record in almost every rally he has held in campaigning for re-election on February 7.

President Marcos has 27 Second World War medals.

Tamils urged to free British woman suspected of spying

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

The British High Commission in Colombo has appealed to a Tamil guerrilla group to release the kidnapped Briton Mrs Penelope Willis, aged 64. She was seized by the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students (Eros) last Friday from Mullattivu in north-eastern Sri Lanka.

The guerrillas, in a statement issued from the South Indian city of Madras have claimed they are holding her on suspicion that she was a spy.

Independent sources said that the guerrillas became suspicious after she arrived in Mullattivu in a hired self-drive car. Foreign journalists are not allowed to visit the northern and eastern provinces and are turned back at security checkpoints. Mrs Willis, however, is said to have carried a written authority from a military officer which enabled her to move freely.

This is the third visit to Sri Lanka by Mrs Willis, who was involved in an attack against Tamil guerrillas were fired at yesterday in the Jaffna district. One passenger in the plane and a soldier in the helicopter were injured.

A British spokesman said: "her interest in visiting the north of Sri Lanka was to ensure that she obtained a balanced picture of the inter-communal problem including the views of the separatist groups, in order to give authenticity to articles that she hoped to write on Sri Lanka."

He said Mrs Willis was unharmed.

Family fears: Members of Mrs Willis's family in Cornwall are waiting anxiously for news of her. Mrs Willis is from a well-known Cornish family. Her father was the late Air Marshal Sir John Tremayne.

She lives with her husband Harold in the small village of Stadesbridge, near Wadebridge in north Cornwall. They have a grown-up son and daughter.

Her sister, Miss Damarisk Tremayne, said yesterday: "Naturally we are very concerned. She's not strong and she's on some medication or other."

Meanwhile, Mr Willis is staying in London with friends while he waits for news from the Foreign Office.

Aircraft hit: An Army aircraft carrying troops returning from leave and a helicopter involved in an attack against Tamil guerrillas were fired at yesterday in the Jaffna district. One passenger in the plane and a soldier in the helicopter were injured.

Meanwhile, in Colombo, the Sri Lanka Parliament voted by 125 to 1 to extend the state of emergency on the island. The Communist Party's Moscow wing voted against while, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the socialist Mahajana Eksath Peramuna abstained.

Fiat may face action over press monopoly

From John Earle, Rome

The Agnelli family's Fiat group faces possible legal action for allegedly violating Italy's anti-monopoly press law which prohibits ownership of newspapers with more than 20 per cent of national circulation.

For years Fiat has owned *La Stampa* of Turin, the second widest read newspaper after *Corriere della Sera* of Milan. Signor Mario Sinopoli, a university professor who is an independent watchdog of the anti-monopoly law, has told a parliamentary commission that in recent weeks Fiat has built up a position of effective control over the Rizzoli publishing house, which owns the *Corriere*. He has therefore submitted the matter to the Milan court for investigation.

Rizzoli, which used to be under the influence of the P2 secret masonic lodge, was rescued by Gemina, a holding company in which Fiat is the dominant shareholder with 32 per cent of the equity. Gemina used to have a minority holding in Rizzoli but, Professor Sinopoli said, it increased it last December to 52 per cent. Hence his allegation that Fiat, in fact, controls the *Corriere*.

He backed his argument by pointing to certain management changes. Signor Cesare Romiti, the managing-director of Fiat, has also become chairman of Gemina.

Italy asks the world to help catch Abu Nidal

The public prosecutor here issued an international arrest warrant yesterday for Abu Nidal, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization splinter group, on a charge of causing a massacre in the Rome airport attack of December 27 in which 14 people died. (John Earle writes).

The warrant was signed by Signor Domenico Sica, the investigating magistrate, who has interrogated the sole survivor of the four Palestinian gunmen.

Palestinian guerrilla acts and Libya's suspected support for them were discussed at a meeting of the inner Cabinet.

Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, reported on talks he had in Palermo on Tuesday with the Maltese Prime Minister, Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, who had recently seen the Libyan leader, Colloel Gaddafi, in Tripoli.

Mifsud Bonnici is said to have put forward a three-point Maltese proposal for reducing tension in the Mediterranean. States would pledge not to give any support or cover to terrorist groups; would not use military force against other states in the region; and would not allow existing military bases to be used against other states in the region.

All-out war threat in Uganda

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

The sound of gunfire again echoed in Kampala yesterday as fighting continued between units of the Uganda Army and guerrillas of the National Resistance Army (NRA).

The two sides signed a peace agreement here more than a month ago, but no effective moves have been made to implement it, and the Ugandan Foreign Minister, Mr Olara Otunnu, told a press conference here yesterday that the NRA leaders were talking of all-out war.

Mr Otunnu said fighting had been going on south and southwest of Kampala since January 17, and was still continuing. There had been casualties on both sides.

The Army in Kampala has been trying to control hundreds of troops who rampaged through the city looting and stealing cars, apparently out of control after being withdrawn from defensive positions a few miles away.

The surge of troops caused panic and Kampala was virtually deserted on Wednesday. Later, military police toured the city rounding up troops.

The Ugandan head of state, General Tito Okello, also toured Kampala, and addressed a rally yesterday, telling people to remain calm.

The British high commissioner, Mr Colin McLean, said no Britons had been hurt in the fighting. But there were some Ugandan civilian casualties.

The NRA says its attacks are intended to bring under control the Government troops who have been killing and harassing civilians. But Mr Otunnu said this was no reason for failing to implement the peace agreement.

Hong Kong rounds on Renton

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, with responsibility for Hong Kong, arrived here yesterday to face the threat of a motion of censure against the British Government over nationality questions.

He has also been criticized for his recent statement in Peking that Britain and China must seek a form of "convergence" over the institution of new political means of governing the territory.

Unofficial members of the legislative council said they would "denounce" Britain's refusal to grant special nationality papers to about 10,000 members of ethnic minorities and former prisoners-of-war who fear their descendants may become stateless after sovereignty reverts to China in 1997.

It is widely felt here that Mr Renton's comments in Peking left the British-dominated Hong Kong Government in the position of a lame duck.

It is not yet known whether the elections to a regional council in Hong Kong will be cancelled because of Peking's strong opposition to further democratization of the legislature.

China wants Britain to stop allowing Hong Kong to draw up its own internal organs of self-government for its future status as a "special administrative region" of the People's Republic, with its own economic and legal systems.

Peking is in the process of drafting a "basic law" or mini-constitution, whose provisions could clash with the new, quasi-democratic structure being pushed by the local government, until now with Britain's support.

Prices strike hits Bolivia

La Paz (Reuter) - Bolivian workers staged a general strike yesterday against the Government's economic policies only hours after President Paz Estenssoro had sworn in a new Cabinet committed to controlling inflation.

The 24-hour strike closed factories and mines and disrupted rail services, but shops in La Paz remained open and public transport in the city was largely unaffected.

Super Club to North America.
Even when it's full, it's not.

British Airways Super Club is rather popular these days. It could be the six abreast seating, the award winning service, or even the fact that we fly to fifteen cities in the US and three in Canada. Whatever the reason, you may find all the seats have been taken.

Don't worry. Unlike other airlines we won't send you away disappointed. We'll send you away First Class instead at absolutely no extra cost (to you, that is). Or we might even send you on Concorde if you've booked a Super Club flight to New York, Miami, or Washington D.C.

British Airways would like to apologise to its passengers for any inconvenience this may cause.

BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline.

IF NONE OF THESE IS AVAILABLE, WE'LL CARRY YOU IN ECONOMY AND GIVE YOU A FREE ONE-WAY SUPER CLUB TICKET OR THE EQUIVALENT VOUCHER FOR REFUND. THIS OFFER IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO NORTH AMERICA EXCLUDING ANCHORAGE FROM 6th JANUARY TO 21st MARCH 1986.

Marx and Party turn off China readers

moons clue rry of rings

ations refer firm objective

Congress prepares to do battle with Reagan over budget and defence

From Michael Binyon, Washington

A stormy election year starts in earnest this week with the return of Congress and the beginning of arguments over the budget, defence and foreign policy which will grow more heated as the mid-term congressional elections loom.

The intractable budget will be the focus for the sharpest conflicts between parties and between Congress and the White House. President Reagan's determination to increase the defence budget by 3 per cent in real terms will come under mounting pressure, as Congress grapples with the need to slash federal spending before the automatic cuts mandated by the Gramm-Rudman legislation come into effect.

Congress, however, will insist that the Pentagon accept its share of the massive reductions in domestic spending needed to balance the budget by 1991. Battle lines have been drawn, with Mr Les Aspin, chairman of the House armed services committee, predicting that defence spending will decline by 20 per cent in 1987 and the President refusing to accept any reductions in funds for his controversial Strategic Defence Initiative.

Mr Reagan will also insist that a reluctant Senate take up as a priority his cherished tax reform bill. To press the point, he met Republican leaders on Tuesday for the first time since

Congress adjourned on December 20 amid a flurry of compromises which enabled the tax legislation to pass the House of Representatives.

Yesterday the President began a series of small breakfast meetings with Republican senators. Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, took part to bolster the White House attempt to protect defence from budget cuts. To achieve the \$60 million cut this year in overall spending, Congress wants to cut \$20 million each from defence and domestic spending and raise taxes by \$20 million, but Mr Reagan strongly opposes the plan.

Senate hearings on the Bill will begin next Wednesday and Senator Robert Dole, the Republican majority leader, predicted a long, hot summer unless there was bipartisan support for the measure.

Relations between the White House and congressional Republicans are poor and not likely to improve. About 22 Republican senators are up for election in November and many will try to distance themselves from Mr Reagan's increasingly unpopular policies on domestic cuts, agriculture and the defence build-up.

As the devastating impact of cuts in those domestic programmes not protected becomes clearer, calls are increasingly going to be heard within the

Republican Party for a tax rise to make up the revenue shortfall.

Foreign policy also promises sharp controversy. Mr Reagan will try again to persuade Congress to vote military aid, possibly as much as \$100 million (£70 million), to the Nicaraguan Contras, but faces strong opposition. Congress seems equally opposed to the proposed arms sale to Saudi Arabia and Jordan, which the Administration sees as vital to retain King Husain's support for its Middle East peace initiative.

There will be lively debates on whether and how the US should aid Unita guerrillas in Angola, on what further sanctions might be invoked against South Africa and on the gathering economic and political crisis in the Philippines. With the budget axe falling heavily on foreign aid, there will also be controversy on the reduction of US peacekeeping forces and contributions to international agencies.

The White House is likely to find more support for its policies to fight terrorism and in the search for an arms agreement at Geneva. The administration, however, will probably urge Congress to repeal a ban on anti-satellite weapons testing.

Scepticism about the President's SDI may harden into concerted opposition.



Haryana farmers protesting against the loss of the state capital, Chandigarh, to neighbouring Punjab.

Three die as Chandigarh protests hit Haryana

Delhi - Police had to open fire in at least three places yesterday to disperse mobs as they built barricades and disrupted traffic in the Hindi-speaking state of Haryana in

protest against Delhi's decision to transfer the city of Chandigarh to Punjab (Our Correspondent writes).

The city, joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, will be

handed over to Punjab on Sunday.

The agitation in Haryana is being led by all the opposition parties.

Latest reports indicate that

three people were killed and at least 14 injured in yesterday's violence in Haryana. A police van and six railway carriages were set on fire during the agitation.

Explosion in airline office at Peshawar

Peshawar (Reuter) - A powerful bomb at a Pakistan International Airlines office here killed at least three people, including a senior government official, and wounded 29 others, police said.

The attack was the latest in a bombing campaign which has hit Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan in the past few weeks.

Deadlock over Albanian family

Rome - Negotiations have run into deadlock over the future of six Albanian brothers and sisters who eluded security guards and entered the Italian Embassy in Tirana on December 12 to seek political asylum (John Earle writes).

The father of the four men and two women, aged between 44 and 60, was a chemist from Durazzo who collaborated with the Nazis and Fascists during the Second World War. The six said they will commit suicide if handed back.

Journalist fined

Kuala Lumpur (AFP) - A Malaysian journalist on the New Straits Times, Sabry Shariff, was sentenced to pay a 7,000 Malaysian dollar (£2,070) fine or spend one year in jail for violating the Official Secrets Act. He had received a secret military document on the purchase of airborne warning planes.

Drugs swoop

Verona (Reuter) - Sixty-six people have been arrested and charged with selling large amounts of cocaine and heroin in Italy's northern Veneto region. The round-up came after the discovery of a ring smuggling drugs from Colombia via London and Paris.

Quito raid

Quito (AFP) - A previously unknown left-wing guerrilla group took over briefly the Ecuador independence monument in a night raid near here, disarmed four guards and made off with nineteenth century weapons from a museum.

Modena blast

Modena (Reuter) - Seven-people were killed when an explosion ripped through a three-storey apartment building on the outskirts of this northern Italian city of Modena. First reports blamed the blast on a liquid gas container.

Ship disaster

Zamboanga, Philippines (Reuter) - Fifty people were reported missing after a cargo ship carrying 69 passengers and crew sank in heavy seas off Sibutu island in the Southern Philippines. The survivors were picked up by two fishing boats.

Border incident

Linz, Austria (Reuter) - An Austrian border guard was detained by Czechoslovak border guards while feeding deer near the frontier, taken to Czechoslovak territory and held for nearly seven hours before being released.

Rained off

Nuremberg (AP) - Rain and mud have forced Nato to end the Alliance's winter manoeuvres today, a week ahead of schedule, the US Army said it did not want to damage the countryside.

Bangladeshi puts faith in blood test

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Bangladesh has rejected a British proposal for blood tests known as DNA finger-printing, to be used on dependants of immigrants in Britain of Bangladesh origin who apply for entry certificates.

But the father of a 10-year-old girl in Bangladesh said yesterday that he thought the test would help to get her into Britain to join him, his wife and three sons.

Mr Faruq Choudhury, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister, said on Tuesday that the test, which is based on the matching of genetic numbers between parents and their children, is "unreliable and humiliating". He said the test was an invasion of privacy.

But Mr Abdul Salam, of Forest Gate, London, said yesterday that he did not think such a test on his daughter would be an invasion of privacy. "I don't want to waste any more time; that is why I would like the blood test."

His daughter, Shefa Begum, was refused entry to Britain in Dhaka in November 1984. The appeal hearing has been fixed for February 19.

Mr Salam, who has been in Britain since 1966, said that some people might, however, be angry about the test because they would feel their word was being doubted.

The British High Commission in Dhaka had planned to introduce the test on a voluntary basis from April. The Foreign Office said yesterday that it would be talking to the Bangladesh Government in an attempt to persuade it that the whole idea was to speed up entry clearance. Immigrant groups in Britain had wanted the Foreign Office to look at the idea.

British immigration officials said that the test would speed up the processing of about 12,000 pending applications because authenticity could be quickly verified.

Germans intrigued by jet-set banker's trial

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

The career of Ferdinand Graf von Galen - who may be unknown to the rest of the world, but whom the West German newspapers and magazine public know to be their country's only colourful banker - reached a climax yesterday.

He went on trial in Frankfurt accused of a hugely complicated fraud. How he came by his money has aroused hardly any interest. What he did with it is what has made him a celebrity in a nation with few celebrities and whose gossip columns are dependent on foreign imports from Britain, France and the United States.

Bankers in the Federal Republic enjoy the same prestige as field marshals, historians and composers in previous Germanies. The Deutsche Bank is popularly assumed to run the country. But, in their horned-rimmed spectacles and dark suits, they are men of relentless discretion.

Schroeder, Muenchmeyer, Graf von Galen, aged 50, set out to attract the attention paid to rich men the world over. This he achieved by the usual means: marrying a glamorous heiress, having Dr Henry Kissinger to dinner and charging about in a private jet.

"Let's saddle up the herd", he apparently used to say when he felt like having a ride in the jet. In all this, Graf von Galen was helped by being 6ft 6in and always described as elegant.



Graf von Galen: colourful and elegant aristocrat.

He was quoted as saying that the problem with the German economy was that it was not jolly enough. His efforts to remedy that ended in December 1984 when police stopped him in the street in Frankfurt and handcuffed him.

Graf von Galen was head of Schroeder, Muenchmeyer, Graf von Galen, and Company. Such a bank sounds imposing enough. In 1982, the Graf was head of Frankfurt stock exchange. But his bank kept on lending money to a dubious building company which later collapsed.

This allegedly broke the German law against lending too much to a single client. Under the law, a defendant is not required to plead. But Graf von Galen will be denying the charges.

These motorists cut the cost of their motor insurance

So can you!

They did it and so can you

Direct Line Insurance from the Royal Bank of Scotland was set up specifically to save you money on your motor insurance yet still provide you with the best possible cover.

And as you can see from these quotes, the way we work is working well for our customers.

The most modern methods

We've eliminated all the old-fashioned, time-wasting paperwork like proposal forms.

And we deal with you direct. A modern, streamlined organisation geared to react quickly to everything from your first enquiry to settling any claims you have to make.

Instant quotes - Instant cover

Simply call 01-686 2468 any time 8.00am - 8.00pm weekdays, 9.00am - 2.00pm Saturdays.

One of our friendly, highly-trained insurance experts will take all your details, including your present no claims discount.

Then, within seconds, work out a free quote for you.

If you accept, all the necessary arrangements can be made there and then.

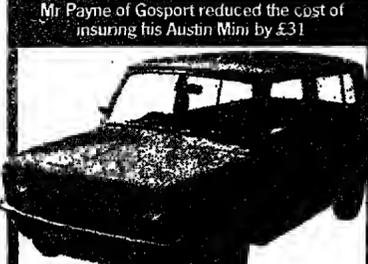
No forms. No red tape. And if your insurance isn't due for renewal yet, we promise that the quote we give you will be valid for three months.

Phone today. Or send the coupon

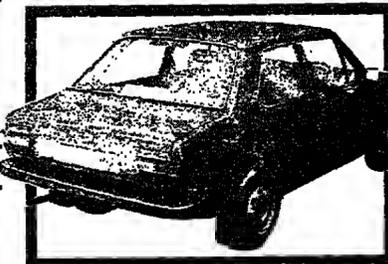
If you're not in an immediate hurry, why not complete and return the coupon below - and we'll make certain you have full details AND a FREE quote BEFORE your current insurance is due for renewal? The sooner you act the better, so do it today.



Mrs Bennett of Carshalton reduced the cost of insuring her Austin Metro by £65



Mr Payne of Gosport reduced the cost of insuring his Austin Mini by £31



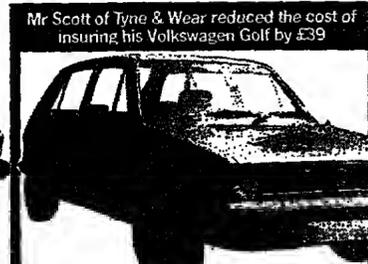
Miss Craig of Edinburgh reduced the cost of insuring her Volkswagen Derby GLS by £25



Mr AR Knight of Southampton reduced the cost of insuring his Saab 99L by £50



Mr R Grant of Southampton reduced the cost of insuring his Ford Capri 2000 Ghia by £39



Mr Scott of Tyne & Wear reduced the cost of insuring his Volkswagen Golf by £39

So, call us now on 01-686 2468



Royal Bank of Scotland Group Insurance Company Limited, Cavendish House, 51-55 South End, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1BF
Not applicable in Northern Ireland

To: Royal Bank of Scotland Group Insurance Company Ltd., FREEPOST, Croydon CR9 9EA. 173

Please send me a quotation for my motor insurance. I am between 25 and 75 years of age, hold a UK licence and do not require driving by prescription under 25.
I/We have had no accidents or claims within the last 3 years.
I/We have had no convictions in the last 5 years (other than parking or speeding).
I am/We are in good health.

NAME(S) MISS INITIALS SURNAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ OCCUPATION _____
DAY TELEPHONE NO. _____

CAR MAKE AND MODEL _____
YEAR _____ ENGINE SIZE _____
COVER (please tick) COMPREHENSIVE THIRD PARTY FIRE & THEFT
DRIVERS (please tick) SELF ONLY SELF & SPOUSE ANY OTHERS
MY POLICY EXPIRES _____
AND I EXPECT NO CLAIM BODIES OF _____ YEARS

NO STAMP NEEDED - POST TODAY

THE ARTS

Television
Society's shadow

One of the striking facts about the last century is the apparent unconcern with which our immediate ancestors ignored - almost literally stepped over - the poor and the starving who cluttered the streets of London. That was perhaps why *Red Herring* (BBC2) began with some suitably bleak pictures from *Bleak House* before concentrating upon more contemporary scenes - scenes which contained a poverty and a squalor which we ignore just as easily as the mid-Victorians.

The documentary was subtitled *Another Country*, and a sense that is quite appropriate: it was concerned with the homeless young, some of them not much older than Dickens's outcasts and most of them living in conditions which match those of Dickens's hovels. It is almost as if the poor labourer under a curse, an urban horror which continues from generation to generation. Certain things have changed, however: the new outcasts are more articulate and perhaps more aggrieved, since the combination of economic decline and failed "welfarism" has created a disoriented client class.

The fact that the problems of poverty admit of no easy solution generally means that they are considered to be somehow "permanent", which in turn means that they can be forgotten or ignored. The point of programmes such as *Red Herring* is that it makes it necessary to look at the despair which is being bred on the streets, we can only understand our society by looking at the shadow which it casts.

Peter Ackroyd

Cinema
Demerits heavily and happily outweighed

Dreamchild (PG)
Curzon
Rocky IV (PG)
Leicester Square Theatre
Teen Wolf (PG)
Plaza, Cannon Oxford Street
Death in a French Garden (18)
Chelsea Cinema

Dreamchild revives belief in the mirage-like British film renaissance. Here is a film that does not attempt to compete with America in scale or subject, but puts its trust in originality, imagination, skill and inventive exploitation of its limited financial resources. Deonisa Potter's screenplay is a series of generations around a true incident: in 1932 Mrs Alice Hargreaves, an 80-year-old English widow, visited America to receive an honorary degree in commemoration of Lewis Carroll's centenary and in homage to her own curious contribution to English literature. Seventy years before, as 10-year-old Alice Liddell, she had been the inspiration for Carroll's Alice.

Mrs Hargreaves (Coral Browne) is a dragon of an uniquely English breed, hurling her put-upon young companion (Nicola Cowper), charitably rescued from an orphanage, and giving the uppity Yankees a few sharp lessons in good manners. Another sure mark of English gentility, nicely observed by Potter's script, is her confidence that it is ill-bred to scorn hard cash: Mrs Hargreaves (just as her real-life original appears to have done) enters with a will into the commercial exploitation of her celebrity. In this she is assisted by a charming, mercenary young reporter (Peter Gallagher); and this character, and his romantic involvement with the companion, though the structural utility is evident, is the least convincing and satisfying part of the scenario.

Any demerits are heavily and happily outweighed. The centre of the film is the portrait of the real, vulnerable old lady hidden behind the defences of veil, stiff back and sharp tongue. Conscious that death is not far away (the real Mrs Hargreaves died a few months after the visit), she is obliged to take stock, to look back over a lifetime, past a war and its bereavements, to events she had tried to expunge from her memory. Gavin Millar's film moves smoothly from New York in the Thirties to the Oxford summers of the 1860s; and the ghost



Passion, peril, innocence: Ian Holm and Amelia Shankley in *Dreamchild*

of the Revd Dodgson, the March Hare, the Mad Hatter and the Dormouse invade Alice's suite in the Waldorf-Astoria as easily as they did the imagination of the Dean's little daughter.

Mrs Hargreaves is not unaware of sexual realities ("Are you a homosexual?" she forthrightly asks the young reporter suspiciously) and it is with awareness as well as a mixture of anxiety and regret that she recalls Dodgson's attachment to her. The scenes between Dodgson and the child Alice are acutely played by Ian Holm and Amelia Shankley to intimate all the passion, the peril and the touching innocence of the relationship.

Coral Browne's realization of Mrs Hargreaves is a formidable tragicomic performance, touching moments of real nightmare in the aged Alice's confrontation with a mockingly and malevolent Hatter's tea party, and rising to a triumphant resolution of self-knowledge in her final acceptance speech.

This extraordinarily satisfying film was made with resources that did not permit location filming in the United States. Liverpool stood in for the New York docks, and the city was re-created in various other regional locations. Yet even the handicaps are turned to

advantage: somehow this slightly patched and makeshift New York seems to approximate to the image of a stern old lady of half a century ago far better than anything contemporary America could provide.

How different from the home life of Sylvester Stallone. He has created out of one but two of the most potent folk-heroes of the age, Rocky and Rambo. No doubt if he wished he could be the next President of the United States. Indeed, given Rambo's worldwide following, why stop at that? Such thinking seems to be behind Stallone's reflections on international relations in *Rocky IV*.

Essentially the plot of Stallone's own screenplay is the same as in *Rocky I, II, and III*, viz, there is this big, oosty guy, but Rocky whops him just the same. Here there is the added sophistication of politics and patriotism. The opponent is Russian; and the honour of America itself is at stake. As in *Rambo First Blood Part II*, Stallone loyally confirms the general mass of ignorant fear and prejudice: the Soviet fighter has the advantage of the most costly and advanced technological trappings, as well as steroids and plain cheating. Honest Americans are up against Machiavellian Commie politicking.

Teen Wolf is a sad case of someone having a bright idea but not the least idea what to do with it. Michael J. Fox - the volatile young hero of *Back to the Future* - plays a shy college boy who develops an hereditary characteristic of turning into a werewolf from time to time. Contrary to his initial fears, this makes him the star of the basketball team and the idol of the girls who had previously ignored him. The story's potential is sacrificed to a witless script and direction, by Rod Daniel, to suit.

Under its original title, *Peril en le demeur*, *Death in a French Garden*, the twenty-second film of the prolific Michel Deville, has proved a major French box-office hit, though - like many successes with the French audience - it is hard to say why. It is technically crisp and efficient, with the kind of flashy scene transitions that pass for style, and has some effective erotic passages. As a thriller however it is an extraordinary collection of borrowings from Chandler, Chabrol, Hitchcock et al., all pieced together into a labyrinthine and frustratingly non-sequiturs of intrigue and deception. The players include Christopher Malavoy, Nicole Garcia, Michel Piccoli and the somewhat eerie Anamone.

David Robinson

Dance
Mystery surrounding North's departure

The 10 dancers of Ballet Rambert who are showing pieces in the company's choreographic workshop at Riverside Studios this week could hardly be expected to produce anything as dramatic as the abrupt and entirely unforeseen departure of their artistic director, Robert North. Disagreement on artistic policy is the bland reason given: disagreement with whom is not yet revealed.

One incoming effect of North's going is that the Manchester premiere of his new ballet *Fabrications*, with designs by the Emaouels, announced for February 7, has had to be cancelled. North himself has gone abroad and is not available for comment.

North's choreographic influence could perhaps be detected in some of the apprentice pieces given at Riverside on Wednesday. Curiously, the influence of Rambert's resident choreographer (and now acting director) Richard Alston was not apparent, except in his lighter mood (*Love style*) which perhaps lay behind Mark Baldwin's cheerful *Pussy-Footing* for three kitchen girls and himself as the cat that got the cream.

Only Frances Carly among the would-be choreographers had taken as her model Rambert's third associate choreographer, Christopher Bruce. His interest in folk music and dance, equally reflected in his social concern, were reflected in

Carly's *Songs of the Ghetto*, set to three Yiddish songs passionately performed on stage by Hilary Western. It would have been helpful to know what they were about, so as to follow better the fierce emotions expressed by Paul Melis, Bruce Michelson and especially Diane Walker, but the short work, visually inspired by Käthe Kollwitz's paintings, gripped the interest.

That was much the most impressive work on show. Among the others, Lucy Beuhne, in a jazzy dance for four men, and Catherine Price, in a group dance that left its members vulnerably isolated, both found some interesting movement but did not sustain it. The women on the whole had the punchiest approach, ranging from an amusing, completely obscene fantasy on dental anaesthesia by Siobhan Stanley to a rough-up for two men by Amanda Britton. Most of the men's contributions by contrast were simply wet.

Chief heroes of the evening were the company's musical director, Nicholas Carr, and pianist Christopher Swinbanks, who between them composed, transcribed or arranged the scores for six of the works, using sources as diverse as Dave Brubeck, Shostakovich and Philip Glass, all capably played by those two musicians and a small ensemble.

John Percival

Opera
Il trovatore
Royal Glasgow



Constant pleasure: Janice Cairns as Leonora

Scottish Opera's new *Trovatore* is credited to Graham Vick as producer, but the movement and the groupings are conditioned very much by the engrossing setting that Michael Yeargan designed for Andrei Serban's 1983 Opera North production. Nor is there in this of all operas, much room for two opinions about motivation. We are, therefore, back in Serban's Spanish Civil War staging, which provokes the question of why Verdi in Glasgow should survive translation into the twentieth century much better than does Rossini in London.

Partly it is an effect of the Scottish lighting, by John Waterhouse, which effectively creates a gloom that prevents the updating from imposing itself too blatantly, at least until the final act. Partly it is the simple fact that *Il trovatore* is so much more familiar than *Moses*; it creates its own place independent of the scenic apparatus, and thereby allows dislocation and irony more willingly.

But perhaps the most significant difference is the change in musical style, whereby 1853 seems very much closer to us than does 1827. The machinery of modern war is plausibly updated by Verdi's rhythms and his rucel score, which half expects the Anvil Chorus, done very percussively here, to be answered by the clatter of a locomotive coming across the stage's stretch of railway track.

By no means, though, is all noisiness in the musical part of this revival. Graeme Jenkins proves himself a Verdi conductor of the first rank, capable of communicating a sense of importance and detailed care to both chorus and orchestra, and of showing the score always at its finest, whether that is a

matter of superb melodic phrasing, of exquisite chordings (in the introduction to the closing scene, for instance) or of an exact control of gesture. There is scarcely a crumb of moment when the piccolo might normally shriek, it is brought into the texture as a sifting on the breeze. High hopes are raised for Mr Jenkins's *Moses*; the cast may not be quite on the same level of excellence, but there are worthy and well-considered performances throughout. Janice Cairns as Leonora gets an admirable quantity of the English text across, even when this causes problems of phrasing; her candid tone, too, is a constant pleasure, as is her flexibility in ornament. Patricia Payne is a plangent mother-figure as Azucena. Jack Strauch is a nicely grim-tongued yet lyrical Di Luna and Geoffrey Moses a strong Ferrando, again making much of the words.

Angelo Marenzi as Manrico is not well placed to do the same, and on Wednesday he was affected by an illness that threatened to stifle him in the third act. But, perhaps drawing strength from the committed seriousness of this production, he soldiered on magnificently.

Paul Griffiths

Concerts

Philharmonia/
Lombard

Festival Hall/Radio 3

The music of "Les Grands Maitres Français" is on the menu of five Royal Philharmonia Society concerts this spring. That, at least, is what they tell us. In fact, the main work to this opening concert was the *Symphony in D minor* by César Franck, whose claims to greatness and, indeed, Frenchness have been well debated by posterity.

The symphony is worth an occasional airing, if only to confirm the worst fears of those repulsed by rampant chromaticism, lurid instrumental colouring, interminable chains of sequences and earnest but all-too-obvious "cyclic form". For Franck at his best, when he sends half the orchestra chasing the other half in extravagantly prolonged canon, or piles up a

weighty climax with ponderous but impressive calculation, still makes any half-sympathetic spine tingle.

But grand old Romantic warhorses need careful grooming. In this performance Alain Lombard seemed content with rather casual ensemble and the addition of one or two extra garishes of sentimentality to a score that has enough already. His recumbent attitude to the opening *Lento*, where nearly every barline signalled an immense rubato and every crochets rest became a prayerful pause, was a case in point. Matters were not helped here by some indecision in the lower strings about whether the *Lento's* reprise should be in F major or minor.

The *Allegro* was better paced and the recapitulation, where Franck gives his main theme a thunderous bass echo, was properly ablaze with passion; but both here and in the finale Lombard should surely have

kept a tighter rein on those ubiquitous lachrymistic rhythms. More successful was the middle movement where Janet Marshall brought a full-bodied tone to the cor anglais solo, and the strings were suitably silky in the curling scherzo passages.

It was a hazy evening for Miss Marshall because the opening work, Berlioz's overture *Le Carnaval romain*, also displayed her soloistic prowess. Here Lombard was far happier, coaxing the Philharmonia strings to play with wily brilliance, whittling away the middle textures, and letting the percussive department and Berlioz's pungent, rhythmic verve do the rest.

Ravel's suite *Le Tombeau de Couperin* flattered along in relaxed and fairly winsome manner too, but it was Poulenc's Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra which claimed most attention among this motley Gallic crew. Given idiomatic, punchy and well-

synchronized treatment by Jean-Philippe Collard and Francois-René Duchable the work emerged as an ebullient, if slightly quixotic kaleidoscope of disparate inspirations.

Richard Morrison

LMP/Glover
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The BBC, so the programme informed us, was recording this concert for future transmission. I anticipate that only the early birds among us will catch it on the radio, for the sole feature uniting the works which the strings of the London Mozart Players gave us was that all were eminently undemanding, if attractive. Just the sort of material deemed acceptable on the air before breakfast, in fact.

A curious mixture it was, too, though everything was performed confidently and competently. The articulation was neat, but the *Rossini* and firm, while the occasional purple passage hinted that perhaps more rehearsal time than usual had been devoted to the music, none of which was as straightforward to play as to listen to, of course.

The most immediately enticing prospects were two neo-classical works, Stravinsky's bare-textured postwar Concerto in D and Albert Roussel's *Sinfonietta*, Op 52, of 1934. Stylistically they share quite a lot: a considerable debt to the diatonic system, for one thing, and in their outer movements a rhythmic impetus set in motion by the conflict of regular pulse with irregular stress, for another. But the *Rossini* seemed to me the stronger piece here.

Where Stravinsky concerns himself perhaps too much, with artifices like the blatant perfect cadences in the central *Arioso* and, indeed, the willful remoteness of that whole movement, Roussel's writing is disarmingly direct as well as appealingly original.

Jane Glover conducted both pieces with her usual unfussiness, and it was pleasant to hear her warm so readily, too, to Vaughan Williams's Oboe Concerto. Malcolm Messiter was the superb soloist in Ravel's *Divertimento in D*, K136, crops up incessantly these days, though here its articulate crispness was admirable. And Tchaikovsky's *Serenade*, Op 48, I admit, a pet hate, for no better reason than I have heard it too often. Still, three out of five is not too bad.

Stephen Pettitt

Theatre

Aptly welcome wit

The Light Rough
Hampstead

If *The Jewel in the Crown* is to be believed, it was the struggle between the grammar school boy and the public schools that rotted British rule in India. Brian Thompson's new play (director: Michael Attenborough) shows the same neurosis at work in a dealer of second-hand books in Clapham. Paul (Alfred Lynch) does not end up bloodily disembowelled on an Indian bed. Psychically dismembered he is. His wife walks out on him; the hated rival (public school) massacres him at golf; and his partner, a plasterer (working class), will not play with him any more. The book-selling business sounds in poor shape too.

Should that last remark be thought to trivialize a story of pain and lost directions, it is also the general response of Paul to his lot in life. But, very surprisingly for an author of Thompson's experience, we are not led towards the causes of the troubles. Paul is chessed off by the sociological blab of his hatchet-faced rival - "I teach literature at Kent" - though he does not go as far as the vexed bus driver next door, who throws a garden gnome through the conservatory roof.

What he does provoke a crisis on the domestic front, but here his failure is that of his golf: no follow-through. What are we to make of this decline and fall as the one and only story of a play?

What can be done to enjoy the dry wit that pops out at the most unexpected and welcome times, usually as one-liners apt to the character, which is by no means always the case who authors make their characters tell jokes. Surrounding these pleasures, however, there is chin-to-chin confrontation among a group of individuals of only intermittent plausibility.

In his tirades Alfred Lynch makes use of almost Shakespearean timbres, too large in scale for this stage. Heather Cannigg made increasing good sense of the wife. But it is the family friend, a biscuit-tin collector, who has the best lines, and Oliver Ford Davies makes him into the most credible male character. Splendidly behind the times ("What's My Line" now there's a show that's lasted") as well as public school, his delicacy and decency are the many qualities the author may well, in the circumstances, be holding up for recognition.

Jeremy Kingston

Charlie and the
Chocolate Factory
Sadler's Wells

Road Dahl's famous and much-loved children's story has been adapted for the stage by Jeremy Raisoo, which seems a fair idea, and set to music by Christopher Raisoo, which simply does not work. It would perhaps be unwise to suggest that a musical play could ever be fashioned from the raw material available, but the salad of Broadway clichés which Mr Raisoo dishes up is bewilderingly extraneous to the tone of the piece. What has doo-wop to do with bedtime stories?

That grouse apart, Kim Grant's production appears to capture the imagination, or at least the attention, of its target audience. Since the major interest in Mr Dahl's narrative is the lure of chocolate - variously the embodiment of sensual bliss or a sticky, addictive substance which provokes migraine - this may not be a remarkable feat, although the thing is certainly well plotted and just about the right length for its theme.

A plutocrat confectioner named Willy Wonka resolves in a fit of magnanimity to issue golden tickets into five out of

Charlie and the
Chocolate Factory
Sadler's Wells

his countless products, the lucky recipients to be invited on a tour of his nirvanic factory. The first four winners could have been invented by Richmal Crompton: a spheroid glutton named Augustus Gloop; Veruca Salt, a spoilt brat in a lampshade dress; a gum-chewing horror called Violet Beauregard; and Mike Teavee, a cap-gun toting television addict.

These monsters are to meet sticky ends appropriate to their cupidity: Augustus lost in a river of chocolate, Veruca deep-sixed down a rubbish chute by a squirrel she tries to appropriate, Violet turned into a blueberry by a very special stick of gum, Mike reduced to matchbox size by Mr Wonka's teleporting machine. Only the fifth child, the sickeningly good Charlie Bucket, comes unscathed through the tour of the factory, where he and his four grand-children are rewarded with a cushy billet for life.

Martin Cropper

English National Opera
London Coliseum, London WC2
St. Martins Lane, London WC2
Box Office 01-836 3161
Credit Cards 01-240 5258

Tomorrow at 5.00
WAGNER's epic masterpiece

**THE MASTERSINGERS
OF NUREMBERG**

Cast includes
Norman Bailey
"a classic Hans Sachs"
Guardian

PUBLIC NOTICE
Major
DISPOSAL AUCTION
of several hundred exceptionally
fine and medium quality, handmade
PERSIAN CARPETS
rugs and runners...

and others from the more important weaving centres of the East. Included are many antiques, silks, felts, nomads and other unusual items, not generally to be found on the home market.

This merchandise is the property of a number of principal direct importers in the U.K. which has been cleared from H.M. Customs and Excise bond, to be disposed of at nominal or no reserve for immediate cash realisation.

Every item guaranteed authentic. Expert advice available at time of viewing.

To be transferred from bonded warehouses and offered at the:
**HILTON INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, KENSINGTON,
HOLLAND PARK AVENUE, LONDON W11,
ON SUNDAY, 26th JANUARY at 3pm.**

Viewing from noon same day.

Payment: cash, cheque or all major credit cards.

Auctioneers: A Wetley & Partners Ltd., 144/146 New Bond Street, London W1. Tel: 01-493 4578.

Dear Mumma & Daddy,
Our School Play is finally
ending on February 15th,
and Mr Lloyd Webber
says we have all earned
a jolly good holiday.

Can you come up to
London for the last
night, it will be sad,
but I'm sure, super fun.

Your Loving Daughter
Daisy

**DALSY
PULLS IT OFF
GLOBE THEATRE**
01-437 1592

Contemporary
Music Network
atlantic new music
on tour

STEVE REICH
in Britain with his own musicians
Steve Reich, Glen Velez, Gary Kiviat, Mort Salzer,
Nurm Tilles, Edmund Niemann, Bob Becker, Tim Petchen

Clapping Music, Vermont Counterpoint:
Drumming Part III:
New York Counterpoint (British premiere)
Sextet (British premiere)

Wed 29 Jan 7.30pm	LONDON, Dominion Theatre	01-580 9562
Thu 30 Jan 7.30pm	SHREFFORD, Odeon Centre	0742-799272
Fri 31 Jan 7.30pm	MANCHESTER, Royal Northern College of Music	061-273 4504
Sat 1 Feb 7.30pm	LIVERPOOL, Philharmonic Hall	051-709 3789
Sun 2 Feb 7.30pm	LIVERPOOL, Haymarket Theatre	051-539797
Mon 3 Feb 8.00pm	COVENTRY, Warwick University Arts Centre	0203-417417
Tue 4 Feb 8.00pm	BIRMINGHAM, Grand Hall, Aston University	021-3591100
Wed 5 Feb 7.30pm	BIRMINGHAM, Grand Hall, Aston University	021-3591100
Thu 6 Feb 7.30pm	BIRMINGHAM, Grand Hall, Aston University	021-3591100
Fri 7 Feb 7.30pm	CARDIFF, St David's Hall	0222-371236
Sat 8 Feb 8.00pm	OXFORD, Sheldon Theatre	01865-720000
Sun 9 Feb 8.00pm	LEEDS, Civic Theatre	0532-463455

Further details from the Contemporary Music Network, Arts Council of Great Britain, 106 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AU. Tel: 01-429 9498

SPECTRUM

The ins and outs of life in Britain

COMING IN FOR THE FREEDOM AND STABILITY

Neither the numbers of foreigners coming into Britain nor the reasons for their doing so have altered in the last decade - but where they come from has...

Why are they here? Many are drawn first as students and having studied choose to stay on; some come on short-term business contracts...

Once the decision to settle is made, justifications abound: after Bogota, Tokyo or New York the tempo is agreeable...

intense family relationships is exhilarating. The affluent and more internationally minded say that England is the best base for Europe...

For their children too, they say, there are really nothing but advantages; an excellent education, international friends...

Not all who come, of course, find it easy, especially at first when jobs - particularly for women - prove elusive...

ate American women opened a telephone information service called Focus, specifically to help those who, as Ginger Irvine, a founder member, puts it, "were discovering that their expectations had been too high...

Major problems for new arrivals, says Mrs Irvine, remain homesickness, inefficiency of all services and the children who fail to settle.

That elusive concept of "home", surprisingly, is rarely raised by expatriates. Migrants from Europe and North America do not appear to waste their time tormenting themselves about their roots...

For some home was a moveable feast from childhood and England will now do as well as anywhere else; for Shigeo Kitano, it remains a philosophical concept...

What makes thousands of Britons desert

these shores each year for a new life abroad while foreigners can't wait to get in? Caroline Moorehead reports

Ask any foreigner living in England why he is here and the answer will be the same: friendliness, subdued pace of life, freedom in all its forms and culture.

The weather may not be that of San Francisco, nor the restaurants as good as in Marseilles, but as a place to buy a house, form a business, study a musical instrument or educate a child, it's hard to beat.

While foreigners are coming in, the British, with much the same vigour, enthusiasm and sense of adventure, are going out - to the Commonwealth countries, to Europe and the Middle East.

In 1984 some 100,000 people in Britain put in a formal application to emigrate to Australia - another 150,000 made inquiries at the Canadian High Commission.

The fact that overall migration numbers are down - 103,000 in 1984, 199,000 in 1974 - reflects quotas and jobs, not the current British desire to be on the move.

GOING OUT FOR OPPORTUNITY AND PROSPERITY

Who, today, migrates from Britain? Apart from the spouses and elderly parents who now make up 80 per cent of immigrants into Australia...

Nurses, at the moment, are much in demand: 11,000 are in the process of seeking entry to Australia. Migrants today are seen as people with clear minds and strong drives...

It's so easy today to wander around the world, points out Mr Hoffman. "Governments have to recognize that it's no longer right to expect individuals to make a commitment for life."

This adventurousness is mirrored in those looking to North Africa and the Middle East for a more prosperous working future. It has been estimated that of all Western countries, Britain has by far the

gest contingent of workers in the Middle East. According to a bulletin published by the Committee for Middle East Trade last September, there are now some 100,000 British subjects living in the area...

On the subject of would-be migrants in general, immigration officers tend to be enthusiastic. "We really see the sort of people on their way up anyway. The unemployed don't migrate," says Mr Hoffman.

His words are borne out, sometimes rather depressingly, by the figures. Foremost among the professions now heading overseas are designers, possibly educated better in Britain than anywhere in the world...

known to face confusion when they migrate solely as appendages to their husbands. Brigitte Vandenberghe of the Centre for International Briefing, mentally divides them into a pool (and these she says, survive) and those who resent having no work...

Even so, expatriate life can be tough. Dr Peter Dally of the Department of Psychological Medicine at the Westminster Hospital, has made a study of the high number of expatriates who come home with problems.

Of the 50 he interviewed, he found that marital troubles had caused 88 per cent of the breakdown in wives - boredom, alienation, loneliness and then much argument - and that family tensions often led to anorexia in adolescent girls.

Pedro de Alcantara (Brazilian newly married) is the son of two doctors and left São Paulo for the United States at the age of 19 to study music. He arrived in England at the beginning of the 1980s to follow the Alexander Technique...



Pedro de Alcantara: In touch

"At first I didn't like London. I thought it wasn't very beautiful or very friendly. But there are so many masters in London - of singing and music and psychology - that you feel you're closely in touch with centuries of knowledge."

"I'm not sure I know what home means, and in my mind I wonder whether settling and growing up aren't incompatible areas of conflict."

Piero di Monzi (Italian: bachelor), opened his first shop in the Fulham Road in 1968 having observed that in London "there was nobody selling good, decent-looking clothes to men". He spoke five languages, having trained as an interpreter, and had worked as a language teacher, a waiter and a receptionist.



Piero di Monzi: In business

Eight months a year are spent in Chelsea; the other four in a family house at Spoleto in Umbria. "As a child in Rome, in the fifties, I admired clothes: by the age of eight I could tell who was well dressed and who wasn't. Why do I live here? You're going to laugh. It's the weather. I love the cold, the green. I feel more energetic."

"This is such a civilized country: there's no hooting of cars all day long. England made me welcome. I owe it a lot. It's made me famous. And for me it's getting better and better and better."



Round the world yachtsman Shigeo Kitano: 'I feel free here'

Shigeo Kitano (Japanese: bachelor) had reached Australia on a round the world trip in a specially built yacht in 1970 when his crew mutinied.

An employee of Nippon Steel with a BSc in Industrial Management from the University of Southern California, he sought legal redress in a suit against the Australian government in London and has stayed in Britain ever since. He now works as a television and public relations

consultant for Deutsu Incorporated while building a new ferroconcrete 53ft yacht which, he hopes, will one day permit him to accomplish solo the second half of his world voyage.

"I see a quiet revolution taking place here as the country reaches the end of the road of the existing social system."

"I still feel Japanese, very much so, but while in Japan I would have no freedom, either socially or politically, here I feel free."



The Tuckey family: 'If we don't make a better living in Canada, then something's wrong'



Cinre (left) and Esther Duggan: 'Australia bound for better pay'

Esther Duggan is 25, the daughter of a former executive with a sugar company and one of a family of seven children. She has a twin sister Clare, who like herself qualified as a state registered nurse. Both girls have decided to emigrate to Western Australia, to join an elder sister already nursing in a private hospital and who is holding places for them.



Francesca Roberts: Off to Paris

Croydon at 7 in the evening and seldom returning home before 10 next morning, Esther Duggan earns £138 a week. In Australia, she has been told: it will be at least half as much again. "It's a challenge: a new life", she says. "Australia is a totally unknown quantity. I like it that way. In any case, I can't see any future here at all. It's a struggle. I can't even think of buying a flat or a car. I work harder and harder just to stay in the same place."



Francesca Roberts: Off to Paris

working as a floor manager in current affairs for the BBC when she met and married her architect husband last summer. He has been living in Paris for the last 10 years. Francesca speaks no French. After much deliberation - should they commute or should he move over here? - she decided to throw up her job and join him.

Cindy and Ed Tuckey and their three children have been part of wandering army life ever since Ed joined as a Warrant Officer in the 1960s.

Last year, at the age of 48, Ed was forced to retire. In the following months, he applied for 35 jobs. The Tuckeys have now been accepted as immigrants into Canada where they have bought a post office-cum-petrol station-cum-general store in a small village near Edmonton.

"Ed's really near the hill here", says Cindy. He is fit, young, but there's nothing for him. If we don't make a better living than here, then something's wrong.

"Here when the kids go out, I'm always thinking: how long will they be? Where have they gone? Canada offers a better way of life for the young."

"We plan to stay for ever. I don't like England any more. Unless you're young and qualified, you've had it. I'm very English when it comes to the Queen, but it's getting to the point when I'm ashamed to say I'm British."

Francesca Roberts was working as a floor manager in current affairs for the BBC when she met and married her architect husband last summer. He has been living in Paris for the last 10 years. Francesca speaks no French. After much deliberation - should they commute or should he move over here? - she decided to throw up her job and join him.

"I feel as if I've jumped off the edge of a cliff when there was a perfectly good path going round the coastline and I haven't landed yet. The hardest part was making the decision and I had to do that entirely on my own. For my age group it's a very unfashionable thing to do - leave a good job for a man."

"What I suppose I like best is the feeling that I have been thrown out onto my sixth sense. It's refreshing, if frightening."

Dynasty II, or how soap gets in your eyes

The launching of the Colbys, a Dynasty spin-off which starts tonight, was a drama in itself

Dynasty's place at the top of the American television ratings was beginning to falter. Apart from anything else, its share in the annual billion dollar advertising revenue was threatened. So was another \$200 million of merchandising. It was a year ago and Esther and Richard Shapiro convened a crisis meeting at their Beverly Hills office. The agenda was headed: "Lust, power, intrigue and other fine things".

What was being planned was not so much a spin-off as a rocket launch. Using Blake



Esther Shapiro: hit formula

Carrington and his Colorado empire as the pad, a kind of "Son of Dynasty" would be fired straight into the upper atmosphere of television folklore.

No one understood the rules better than the Shapiros. Married for 30 years, it had been her ideas and his craftsmanship at

the typewriter which had created "Oil" - the concept of super-soap which hit the screen as Dynasty in 1981. Along the way, the elegantly dressed and maternally huilt Esther Shapiro had become the most powerful and independent woman on the American networks.

At that Beverly Hills meeting was casting director Mark Schwartz. "What we need", he said, "are plenty of hot and sexy women, the most innovative notion, but it was a contribution gladly accepted by the Shapiros."

Blake Carrington and his clan would continue to work out all of our fantasies in Colorado while, interwoven into a double bill for soap addicts, a new and equally extravagant family lifestyle would be spawned by the sea and sea of the Pacific coast. Like the splitting of an amoeba, Dynasty II, the Colbys of California will take its bow on BBC1 tonight. In subsequent weeks it will be shown on Wednesdays with Dynasty I in its usual Friday slot.

It was the beleaguered giant ABC, trailing a poor third in the American network audience war, who first approached Esther Shapiro. Was there any chance of Dynasty reproducing itself? The idea had, after all, worked in the cinema with Roman numerals pursuing such titles as Mad Max and Rocky. ABC got an unenthusiastic yes from the creator-writer duo who had amassed a personal fortune as co-producers and holders of the merchandising rights of Dynasty - but with certain iron conditions. It would be done the Shapiro way.

The new soap would use the character of Jeff Colby, already established in Dynasty, as the essential link. California would be the new family's lotus-land. Charlton Heston, seduced by the suggestion that the Colbys were really an updated version of I Claudius, would be the star



The Colbys: Jeff (John James), Constance (Barbara Stanwyck), Monica (Tracy Scoggins), and Jason (Charlton Heston)

with a \$2.1 million contract. That was where the spending would begin.

Each Colbys episode costs around \$1.35 million although it is filmed mostly in a studio. Designer Nolan Miller has been allowed to spend \$100,000 on the first two introductory episodes. But the most important and cunning proviso was that a full six episodes of Dynasty would be used to introduce the new characters among the old.

With Dynasty II Esther Shapiro has, quite literally, programmed a hit. Her plans to dovetail predecessor into successor have been given full approval by the ABC hierarchy. Cleavage has been cloned with silver-haired bitch with bitch.

The result will unquestionably be a conflict-packed family with her favoured "power and control, sex, love and greed" formula.

Now it seems the only cloud on the horizon for the Shapiros, Heston and co-star Barbara

Stanwyck - she gets \$75,000 an episode and a guaranteed short working week - is the suspected emergence in America of a hitherto unimagined ailment, soap fatigue.

The symptoms were recognized by Mr Donald Grant, president of CBS Entertainment and the man who gave Dallas to the world eight years ago. "It's my hunch, instinctively, that this particular cycle is over", he said. Two of his reasons for pronouncing the unthinkable were that Dynasty, number one last year, had slumped to number 18 in last week's American TV ratings and the Colbys were at number 69.

ABC are undismayed. They have just given their new family a 12-month guaranteed run as an unprecedented vote of confidence in the history of the All American Soap Opera. The next few Wednesdays and Fridays will reveal which way the British vote goes.

Douglas Thompson

When you stop buying They'll stop dying. Each year, millions of wild animals suffer agonising deaths in traps like this. Millions more are subjected to the misery of intensive farming. And all to satisfy the demand for fur products we could so easily do without. RSPCA Say NO to fur. Charity in Action.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 857)

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS: 1 Meal (6), 3 Cherry brandy (6), 5 Regret (3), 9 Gaseous alkane (6), 10 Scientist (6), 11 Breeding stable (4), 12 Russian headscarf (8), 14 Opportunity (6), 17 Invisible (6), 19 Wave threateningly (8), 22 Shove (4), 24 Dull (6), 25 Wall tablet (6), 26 Sever from tree (3), 27 Aishoo (6), 28 Small farmer (6). DOWN: 2 Rejoice (5), 3 Give up (7), 4 Shake (7), 5 Spicy dish (5), 6 Skits (5), 7 Wrinkle (7), 13 Vase (3), 15 Whale spear (7), 16 Cow mouthful (3), 17 Sad (7), 18 Boy's voice (7), 20 Din (5), 21 Fireplace (5), 23 Steam bath (5).

Impish girl from the big house

In Molly Keane's genteel Irish circle, a girl with a hint of blue in the stocking was thought a freak. So for 50 years she wrote under a pseudonym. She tells Russell Harty about her eccentric upbringing

Molly Keane appears to be surprised. "Nobody, simply, nobody, can possibly be interested in an old bag from the bogs like me." It is a statement propelled partly by modesty and partly by a confidence that this is quite untrue.

Her personal history reads like a synopsis for a novel from Mills and Boon: the house which paid Mrs Keane a handsome £50 for her first manuscript in the 1920s. The plot focused upon a girl, not ferociously attractive, not expert in the hunting field, but who eventually captured the prize gentleman by other cunning methods.

She wrote this first novel secretly, at home, in southern Ireland. In her family circle to have declared herself a writer would have been to invite ridicule. You were glamorous and attractive if you could clear fences in the field, sit well on the hunter and spin half the night away on the dance floor. If there was a hint of blue in the stocking, you were considered a freak.

As a child she thought herself rather unloved

Molly was sent away to school. She lasted for a year and then this "rather unloved, and unlovely child" (her words) came home to be tutored by governesses. One of them, in a moment of uncharacteristic panic, told Molly where babies came from, and, even more shockingly, how they got there. Molly, who relishes chatter and gossip, was quite unable to keep this cosmic secret to herself. At bedtime, she told her mother and her mother's sacker the governess.

Mrs Keane's memories are selective, entertaining and dramatic. "We never had any trouble with the Sinn Feiners, unless, of course, you count the day when they came to burn down our house. That was a bit of a to-do," she says.

One day a message arrived to say that the house would be fired that evening. The burning, which she describes as a sort of ritual, was watched by the family and their servants from a far field. Her father, with a shotgun under his arm said, simply, that he preferred to live in Ireland than die in England, so they moved into a smaller house.

She has recorded the drama of less incendiary though equally heated circumstances. There was a dance at another big house - the highlight of the season. One ambitious mother had determined that this would be the night

her daughter shone and a dress was commissioned from a Paris couturier.

The awkward girl was trimmed rather like a Christmas tree, taken to a secret bedroom and put into a huge cellophane box. She was then placed in a prominent position in the great hall. Her mother confidently assumed that as the young men arrived and caught sight of her, they would rip open the wrapping in gallant frenzy, release her baby from her hot cell, and one of them would live with her happily ever after. Nobody noticed. Nobody, that is, except Molly. The wretched girl, a sweating sacrifice to her mother's ambitions, eventually had to tear her way out.

Mrs Keane met her own man in less distressing circumstances. It wasn't love at first uncolophaned sight, but they became good friends. He was handsome and *de bon air*. They married. She then had her own house, she consulted the cooks and instructed the maids; they hunted, played bridge, and then, she became confident enough to declare herself a writer.

She was not, however, confident enough of the reactions of her family and friends and she hid under the pseudonym of M. J. Farrell, a name she collected from a sign over an Irish bar while out hunting one day. Ten novels between 1928 and 1952, their beams centred upon the fate and fortunes of her circle, full of betrayals, misfortunes and peccadilloes.

One of them, *Devoted Ladies*, published 50 years ago, dealt sensitively with lesbianism. Mrs Keane once received in her house a lady visitor whose luggage consisted simply of 1,000 cork-tipped cigarettes and a safety razor. Her presence was noted and instantly entered into her impish computer.

Two events, one professional, one personal, smashed the happy structure of Molly Keane's life. She had shifted from novels to plays and from the early 1950s was writing pieces of a fashionable oature for the West End stage. Some, like *Dazzling Prospect*, were collaborations with John Peppy, directed by John Gielgud. That play opened in 1961 and was tipped into pieces by critics who had tasted the rawer flesh of Mr John Osborne.

Mrs Keane's husband died, suddenly. He had undergone uncomplicated surgery and then developed a blood clot. She was unaware of the fatal complication when she went to see him at the hospital. A matron who clearly believed in swift surgery took her to a waiting room. It was 40 years ago, but Mrs Keane still remembers the pictures of admirals and generals on the brown walls. "Mrs Keane, take a seat," the matron said. "Your husband is dead."

London, the busy and glamorous world of the theatre, were no longer part of her life. She went back to the big and now empty house near Cork. There were two children to bring up. Unforeseen circumstances like those in any self-respecting novel, now dictated a different way of life.



Russell Harty and Molly Keane, creator of stylish, sad and funny stories

The servants went, the children married, Mrs Keane, in her late seventies, started to write again. Something that would please her. Something she knew about, nothing to do with fashion, everything to do with that bright circle of her young womanhood.

She had kept her friends. Her letters are hoops of binding steel, and her hospitality and a small house on the southern coast of Ireland guaranteed a regular drift of visitors.

Dame Peggy Ashcroft went to stay there in 1980. She took to her bed with influenza and begged Molly to let her read anything she didn't already know of hers in print. Mrs Keane gave her the manuscript of *Good Behaviour* and by a speedy process, it was acquired, published and shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1981.

She was persuaded that she was in there with a chance because everyone told her how good it was. Now, she thinks they were trying to soften the blow when Salman Rusdine's name was announced.

But the best thing of all was that she had, for the first time, used her real name, and the postman at Ardmore, the tiny village where she lives, asked her for an autograph and a kiss.

Money, but not a lot of it, you understand, started to arrive. She celebrated her success by buying two new tyres for the car. The BBC bought the rights to the book and made a series of plays from it, and it was serialized on *Woman's Hour*.

Now she is 81 and the BBC have made another film of her novel, *Time After Time*. It is the story of three sisters and a brother who share a crumbling

Her nom de plume was from a sign over an Irish bar

country manor, all of mature years, each with some singular deformity, independent in their day-to-day activities, but very much dependent when odd and shaming secrets of their long lives are cunningly revealed.

Sir John Gielgud, Trevor Howard and Google Withers are some of the stylish characters in this sad and funny piece.

At a showing of the film at the London Film Festival at the end of last year, Mrs Keane slipped into the cinema to watch it on a big screen and to listen to questions put to the producer.

After the first 11 seconds of embarrassed silence, a woman with a tweedy voice and a feel for the drama asked, "How did you get the dog to react so amorously to the bitch?" and some of the mysteries of film-making were revealed. Another asked if the play was autobiographical and the answer was "yes" and "no", which usually means "yes" but we're pretending it isn't.

The last question asked if there was another novel about to arrive. "Not that we know of," replied the gentleman in charge.

However, he has it on the highest possible authority that Mrs Keane now needs two new tyres, for the front wheels, and she knows exactly how to get them.

Time After Time is on BBC2 on Sunday at 10.10pm.

© Times Newspapers Limited, 1986.

Testing time for earlier pregnancy checks

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Chorionic villus sampling (CVS) is a new technique for antenatal diagnosis for foetal abnormalities. Last year the Medical Research Council (MRC) announced a trial of its use - to be conducted at centres in the UK and Europe - which should involve more than 4,000 women.

It shows the seriousness with which CVS is being considered as a possible alternative to the now established technique of amniocentesis (sampling of the fluid around the foetus by injection of a hollow needle), with which it will be compared. But behind it also lies an attempt to assess the risks and benefits of CVS clearly before its use becomes widespread.

CVS involves snipping out a tiny portion of the chorionic villi - the finger-like projections of the placenta which form the foetus's interface with the mother's blood supply. The tissue carries the same genetic configuration as the foetus and can therefore be used to diagnose genetic diseases. The most common method is to insert a hollow needle via the cervix.

The great advantage over amniocentesis is that CVS can be performed earlier in pregnancy - at around 9-11 weeks as opposed to 16 - and the results of the test are available almost immediately. This means that should a pregnancy be affected the mother can be offered a termination at a stage when it is much less traumatic.

Even in the best hands, transervical CVS carries three to six times the risk of precipitating an unwanted abortion as does amniocentesis (where abortion is a side effect in roughly one in 200 cases). Some of the unwanted abortions occur almost immediately and are the result of physical trauma but some occur days or weeks later and are thought to be due to infection introduced from the genital tract.

Now, in the latest issue of the *Lancet*, Professor Richard Lilford, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Leeds

University, and colleagues from University College Hospital and St Mary's Hospital in London, argue that research and experience has shown that the risks of infection with CVS could be minimized if samples were taken by passing the needle through the abdominal wall into the uterus rather than via the cervix.

Professor Lilford told *The Times* that it was slightly more difficult to get chorionic villi samples transabdominally but the technique was easier to teach and could be used up to week 14 in a pregnancy.

Dr Iain Chalmers, Director of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit in Oxford, and one of the organizers of the MRC trial, says that it would provide some data on the relative safety of transervical and transabdominal CVS.

He stressed that there was no scientific proof that either abdominal or transervical CVS was better than amniocentesis or that one route had advantages over the other. The vital thing is that the facts be established before CVS goes into general use, he says.

Living near a power pylon

Since the beginning of the decade, people living in the shadows of pylons or near electricity substations have become increasingly worried that they are more likely to suffer from cancer - particularly from leukaemia - than the rest of the population. Their fear has been fuelled by studies from many parts of the world although some of have been controversial.

The common hypothesis is that cables, which carry massive electrical power, create electromagnetic fields which radiate over the local population and lead to the development of cancers.

But better news comes from a major study to be published in next month's issue of the *British Journal of Cancer*. More than 7,600 people living near sources of electromagnetic radiation in East Anglia were identified from the 1971 census. It was found that by the end of 1983 more than 800 of the group had died.

Close analysis of the figures showed that the overall death rate of the power line people was lower than the rest of the region, mainly because there were far fewer deaths from heart complaints and circulatory diseases than expected.

Overall there was no excessive risk from cancer in the study group. However, there was an unexpected peak in the number of women dying from lung cancer - not one of the cancers normally linked to exposure to electromagnetic radiation. (Unfortunately, figures for smoking patterns in the region were not available.)

There was a marginal increase in the expected number of people dying from cancers of the lymphatic system and

No smoke without fire

A large survey in America has shown that smoking as few as four cigars or four pipe bowls of tobacco a day is the toxic equivalent of 10 cigarettes.

Doctors at Minnesota University's School of Public Health measured the levels of thiocyanate (a chemical marker of the amount of smoke which has been inhaled, they claim) in the blood of over 9,000 men.

Their advice, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* is that even those who have only ever smoked a pipe or cigars should avoid them.

Short-sighted prescriptions

A study in the *British Journal of Ophthalmology* suggests that 50 per cent of 10 year-olds given glasses have perfect vision and a further 15 per cent have only slight problems.

The study was based on a group of children born in 1970. In 1980 parents were interviewed about their children's sight and school doctors asked to examine them. Of a total of 13,756 children 11.7 per cent (1,610) had been given spectacles. Over 560 of these did not need them.

When a child complains of a headache he may be given an eye test and then glasses. The headaches may go away, but that might have nothing to do with the glasses. Your GP's surgery is the best place for a child with a headache, not the local optician's.

Dr Stane believes, however, that there is no other obvious explanation, a high fibrinogen level is a sign of trouble in the circulatory system.

The real value of the test, he says, is that it helps to spot those who need medical help the most.

New guide to heart risks

A doctor in Lancashire has discovered a new clue as to who is most likely to suffer heart attacks. Maurice Stone, Director of the Royal College of General Practitioner's Clinical Research Unit in Leigh, has found that the blood clotting protein known as fibrinogen can help predict who will be most at risk from heart attacks.

In a paper recently published in the *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, Dr Stone describes how a high fibrinogen level in a middle-aged man who already has high blood pressure could increase his chances of having a heart attack 12 times.

Blood fibrinogen levels also go up with rheumatoid arthritis, chronic chest complaints, cancer and infections, for example, and these other causes have to be taken into account.

Dr Stone believes, however, that there is no other obvious explanation, a high fibrinogen level is a sign of trouble in the circulatory system.

The real value of the test, he says, is that it helps to spot those who need medical help the most.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

THE TIMES

SATURDAY

The weekend starts here

Window on the world

Television is set to become the cinema in your sitting-room. Far from a programme being simply "on the box", everything from wildlife to the weatherman will appear almost life-size on a 50-inch screen hung on the wall. The technology for this 1250-line full colour window on the world exists now - but there are some physical and political, before you can hang up your TV screen.

First film in five years
Karel Reisz reveals his Sweet Dreams
Portfolio £22,000 to be won

Russia with a different prospect
A "progressive" trip to Moscow

Can you always get your copy of The Times?

Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of The Times

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Thirst for love loses its fizz

From Douglas Lowndes, *Coville Court, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.*

Following Dr Dagnan O'Connor's (Wednesday Page, January 15), my wife and I took each other to bed yesterday afternoon, with two sandwiches (one smoked salmon, one rare roast beef) and a bottle of Laurent Perrier N/V. We decided also to take plates, glasses and paper napkins, though Doctor D seems not to have heard of this variation.

After about seven minutes, the bed became minuscule because of the breadcrumbs, and my wife knocked over her glass of champagne while trying to brush the crumbs off. Altogether, it was a thoroughly sordid experience, and we would be much obliged if you could ask Doctor D to reconsider this particular technique, or to advise us where we went wrong.

From Jan Etherington-Petrie, *Maple Road, Surbiton, Surrey.*

Keen to act immediately on your feature remedy for revitalizing romance in marriage, I playfully improvised on the recipe of wine and sandwiches beneath the duvet and suggested to my spouse that we could launch the morning with Bucks Fizz, bacon butties and a bit of lie-in.

He claimed that he would miss his train. I asked what relevance that could possibly have compared with nurturing our relationship. He implied that I would jolly well find out when he was out of a job.

He growled that he was all in favour of spontaneity, as long as he knew when to expect it.

We are not speaking.

From a reader, *name and address received.*

Having read the article by Penny Perick on "Lives Coloured by Depression" (Monday page, January 13) may I put the other side? I get very tired of being told how dreadful it is to suffer from depression, how one must strive to understand and

privilege I would give my eye teeth to be able to walk away from, but that won't do.

I have to be there, for to go away would push him further into the mire. It won't do for him to go away either as he then feels rejected.

It is the Jekyll and Hyde syndrome. I never know which is going to walk in through the door, and the unpredictability is most unnerving. It is like living on a knife-edge. You can never relax or take anything for granted and any thought of lapsing into "placid serenity" is completely out of the question. He seems totally unable to understand that he affects everyone in the house.

Perhaps this malady only affects the totally self-centred? Ms Perick, a sufferer herself, looks at it only from her side of the wall, try living on my side!

TALKBACK

forgive the sufferers for their affliction.

Consider what it is like to have set up a pleasant birthday party for 70 friends at the request of the afflicted - because when the sunny side is up they are the most sociable of mortals - only to find that on the night the fog has descended and life is not worth living, again, and certainly not worth the effort of appearing even civil to one's guests.

I am tired of papering over the cracks and pretending to friends and relatives that life is wonderful. It is the nearest and dearest who come in for the bulk of the barrage.

As one kind friend said to me: "It's your privilege to see his gloomy side as well". It is a

NOW ON SALE

WINTER SALE REDUCTIONS ON OUR COMPLETE RANGE OF KITCHENS & BEDROOMS

* FREE DESIGN SERVICE
* COMPLETE INSTALLATION SERVICE

SMALLBONE OF DEVIZES

Harrod, Knightsbridge, SW1
91 Wimpole Street, W1
17 Wigmore Street, W1
72 Gloucester Road, SW7
12-13 Watcote Street, Bristol 5

46 King Street, Kingston
26 Castle Street, Edinburgh
21 London Road, Twickenham, Wiltshire
19 Holywell Hill, St. Albans
16 The Parade, Lymington Spa

RING 0734 876 161 FOR BROCHURE

HEAL'S SALE

ENDS TOMORROW

Don't miss your last chance to find

- 15% off Kew Dining Tables
- 15% off Delta Dining Chairs
- 15% off Cloë Black Leather Sofas
- Up to 17 1/2% off Hulsta Fitted Furniture
- 15% off Interlubke Fitted Furniture
- 20% off Caspa Upholstery
- Orion Swivel Chair in Black or Brown Leather from £275 to £199
- Up to 15% off Bedroom and Children's Furniture
- 15% off Selected Relyon Beds
- Up to 20% off Most Furniture Ranges

Plus great price cuts on towels, china, glass, linens and linens

And never-to-be repeated bargains on samples, display models, end of range goods, shop soiled and slightly damaged merchandise - miss it and you'll miss out

INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE
Subject to status - minimum loan value £500
Ask for written details at our stores
(Licensed Credit Brokers)
All offers subject to availability

196 Tottenham Court Rd London W1 and Tunsgate Guildford

THE TIMES DIARY

Alfonso's task force

For the first time since the Falklands conflict, a delegation of senior Argentine politicians is to visit the Commons next month. The four men, two Peronists and two Radicals, will be guests of the South Atlantic Council, set up to promote Anglo-Argentine reconciliation, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. David Steel, David Owen, Denis Healey and, probably, Neil Kinnock will meet them. With Buenos Aires now willing to talk about reconciliation, and with the trip being supported by senior Tory back-bencher David Crouch, the Government alone is standing outside the rapprochement process. Now Baroness Young, for the Foreign Office, is to be pressed to meet the delegation. George Foulkes, the Labour foreign affairs spokesman, says: "With Forrest Falklands costing the country £50 million a year, the opposition parties and many Conservatives see the need to normalise relations. It seems as if only Mrs Thatcher is now holding out."

Glowing report

I don't give much for the chances of bigwigs in South Glamorgan to the event of nuclear war. The county council's public protection committee was last night considering the laughable results of a Home Office inspection of the Coryton "emergency centre" (ie nuclear bunker) in Cardiff. "It was found that the existing asphalt roof covering (which was 30 years old) had cracked and blistered in numerous places. This was allowing rain water to seep through the concrete roof," says the report of the council's chief executive. These leaks "are affecting the electric cabling and will ultimately cause damage to the communications equipment and lead to deterioration of the fabric of the structure". Coryton would be proof against radiation — "subject to the roof being repaired".



BARRY FANTONI

Oh, Mr Porter

Embarrassment looms for the sedate East India Club in St James's. It is being taken to an industrial tribunal by an ex-hall porter as I have reported, and the case will be heard on February 3. The management of that august institution clearly does not relish the prospect. The porter, Samuel Parks, who is claiming unfair dismissal, was offered first a small sum of money, to withdraw, then a much larger sum, but he has refused. Yesterday Parks's adviser Michael Dickson, told me: "Mr Parks is not going to be bought off; a principle is at stake." The club secretary, John Stoy, and the club's solicitors declined to comment.

Frisson

Reg Freeson, Labour MP for Brent East, teeters on the brink. Will he or won't he defy his party and stand as an independent at the next election against Ken Livingstone? He certainly makes no bones of his contempt for the man who has seized the parliamentary nomination from him. The Brent East party is "in a state of crisis" — an unsurprising outcome of years of factionalism, conspiratorial politics and manipulation associated with Mr Livingstone, writes Freeson to his party secretary. "I oppose narrow ideological, adventurist and carpet-bagger... the abuse of local government for personal aggrandisement... the manipulation of the party and idealistic followers by ambitious populists... the abuse of anti-racism." The time is near "when one has to stand one's ground and risk defeat", he hints tantalisingly. "Something must be done to stop the rot. I am seriously considering what that should be. To paraphrase Thoreau, inaction would be implicit consent."

Lebor report

Reg Freeson is not the only Labour politician unhappy, it seems, about Ken Livingstone's parliamentary candidacy in Brent East. The opinions of former Brent council leader, John Lebor, are being actively campaigning on behalf of the official Labour party candidate in the next general election. Lebor wrote back: Are you really asking for an undertaking of active campaigning for two years in advance? If you are, perhaps you could let me know under which party rule you are demanding this undertaking and who else you have asked?"

PHS

The Nimrod airborne early warning project looks set to stage the most spectacular crash of any British defence scheme for nearly 20 years. After nine years' work and commitments of £1,000 million, the project is running at least four years behind schedule. The aircraft's performance still falls far short not only of the standards which the RAF originally demanded but, in important respects, the much lower interim standards which, as a desperation measure, were set last summer.

The project began in 1977 after intensive lobbying by industry and air enthusiasts. The RAF really wanted the American Awacs, 18 of which have since come into service with Nato. But at the time it was proving difficult to obtain agreement on a Nato programme and for Britain to buy Awacs, for about £450 million, was considered too expensive.

So Britain decided to develop its own radar and other electronic systems to be installed in the adapted fuselage of existing Nimrods — developed from the world's first jet airliner, the Comet. This was expected to cost about £300 million at 1977 prices and all 11 aircraft should have been operational by 1984 at the latest.

However, as things now stand, the aircraft will not be in RAF service before 1987 or 1988 at the earliest, and even then the most optimistic assumptions the performance would be far below what the RAF originally sought.

The whole of the originally estimated cost, which translates into £250 million at today's prices, has been spent. Probably another £100 million has been committed but not actually disbursed and perhaps £35 million would be required to bring the project up to a minimum standard. Beyond that several years' more work at great cost would be required to bring it up to the originally specified performance.

One of the problems with early warning aircraft is that many hardsticks exist for assessing performance. On some, Nimrod is said to be as good as, or better than, Awacs. But on several important measures it falls by a wide margin to meet the minimum initial operating standard.

There appears to have been little advance over the last year; indeed it is rumoured that the performance of one aircraft carrying out trial sorties has fallen in that time.

The problem is not with the aircraft itself but with the radars, computers and other equipment which track enemy aircraft. The prime contractor for this equipment is GEC Avionics.

For at least a year the Ministry of Defence has doubted whether GEC could bring these systems up to even a minimum standard, and the RAF despaired of the project months ago. It has been kept alive partly out of hope that, miraculously, things would come right, but chiefly because it was thought politically unacceptable to write off a project on which so much had been spent.

Tito's widow has been claiming (unsuccessfully) her inheritance; he had got rid of her a few years before his death, no doubt to instal something more agreeable and up-to-date in her place, and they clearly parted very non-speaks indeed — so much so that she seems to have lived under conditions not far removed from house arrest ever since.

The marital relations of Tito do not concern me: what caused me to twitch an eyebrow when I read of the dispute over his property was the list of the said property. It included cars, motorboats, horses, yachts, jewellery, paintings, a score of villas, orchards, a safari park and vineyards, and the value amounted to millions of pounds.

You see the point immediately, no doubt. What was this noble, selfless, upright, honourable, caring, moral, austere, heroic, truly socialist figure — the Stafford Cripps of the Balkans, the Keir Hardie of the no-aligned, the Nye Bevan of small nations — what was he doing with millions of pounds worth of luxury goods, disappointed widow or no disappointed widow?

Not everybody can answer that question, and some who can answer it will be reluctant to do so. Yet the answer, however distasteful it may be thought, is surely a very straightforward one: it is that mass murderers are very unlikely indeed to get a job at the top. Moreover, when the mass murderer in question is not part of the private sector, but the unchallenged and unchallengeable despotic ruler of an entire state, he can loot the public purse with impunity, for none of the mice will be willing to bell the cat, or even to admit that there is a cat to be belled.

It is easy to see this in the case of Ceausescu, who is nothing but a thiefing scoundrel, or in that of the Emperor Bokassa, Giscard d'Estaing's *cher ami*. But it is hardly more difficult to see it in the case of some rulers who have committed few, if any, murders, but have concentrated entirely on providing for their old age or overthrow. There must, for instance, be banks in Zurich desperate for space in which to accommodate the savings of President Mobutu of Zaire; it seems that Washington estate agents have been buying whole neighbourhoods on behalf of President Marcos of the Philippines; and one of the few good laughs the people of Poland had when Jaruzelski took power was the sight of those he had supplanted being accused of widespread peculation.

But Tito was supposed (though not by me) to be above all that. Mass murderer, yes; the dead-uns were obstructing progress towards socialism, and you can't make a real Yugoslav omelette without breaking a bottle of *shovjiz*. But a taste for luxury, and hobnobbing with the public in order to indulge it? Even unconstructed Stalinists, willing to believe anything bad about the man who defied their hero, will surely be astonished to learn that Tito collected jewellery, country houses and vineyards.

Lord Acton did not say "All power corrupts", and he would have been a prize fool if he had. Did power corrupt Gandhi? Or Clement Attlee? Or Pope John? Or his present successor, Or Florence Nightingale? Or Vespasian? Or, ahem, Hannibal? What Acton said was "Power tends to corrupt";

Rodney Cowton on the uncertain future of the Nimrod spy plane

Will Younger strike down the mighty hunter?

Unless GEC comes forward with radically improved proposals for achieving performance targets it appears that George Younger, the new Defence Secretary, may be about to summon up the courage to grasp this thistle and snap it off.

The political price may not be too great. The project was begun by a Labour government, with Fred Mulley as Defence Secretary, and no doubt Michael Heseltine would be made to carry most of the opprobrium for not having cancelled it during his three years at Defence.

Cancellation, although causing acrimony, would probably be in the best interests of GEC itself. Even those over Nimrod acknowledge that GEC Avionics does excellent work in other fields and regret that it is being tainted by this one failure. One thing which has not been challenged throughout Nimrod's long and laborious gestation is the need for something to fill the role. The UK air defence region extends far to the north of the Shetland Islands, to Norway and almost to Denmark, and well to the west of Ireland. The region is covered at high altitude out to a distance of 200 miles or more from the UK by land-based radars. At medium height there is good cover to about 100 miles, but at low level there are huge gaps in the radar cover, particularly to the north and west, through which enemy bombers could attack. It is the job of airborne radar to fill these gaps.



Defending Britain: Nimrod's role in bridging the radar gaps

Britain has had early warning coverage of a sort for years. Since the 1950s it has been provided by Shackleton aircraft carrying 1940s vintage radar. These aircraft are regarded with admiration and affection but they were regarded only as a stop-gap when they were introduced.

The six remaining in service are being given a four-month refit to keep them going until 1988, and perhaps until 1990 if there is nothing to replace them. The RAF has

scoured the world for spare parts to keep them operational. Even at its present level of performance, Nimrod is a great asset on the Shackletons. If it met the original performance specification one aircraft could provide surveillance over perhaps 10 times the area covered by a Shackleton.

While a Shackleton working flat out might be able to report by radio perhaps 30-40 tracks of aircraft per minute, the electronics of Nimrod — the "mighty hunter" of the Book of Genesis — should be able to monitor and transmit information on at least 10 times that number of tracks per second, instantly disseminating the information to Nato and British air defence systems and controlling squadrons of allied fighters. But, at present, in some respects, it cannot do it.

Although intended primarily for use over the sea, Nimrod is also supposed to have some capability on land. To this the RAF is distinguishing between slow-moving helicopters and fast-moving ground vehicles. When carrying out surveillance over the sea, but looking towards the land, radar signals from the sea area may be obscured by false responses from the land.

It should be able to track hundreds of aircraft simultaneously, but its computer can handle only a fraction of that number. Maintenance and reliability are said to be major problems, with insufficient fault identification equipment. GEC accuses the RAF of "moving the goal posts". To this the RAF replies that the original specification has not been greatly changed and that what change there has been is to be expected when a project is running four years late and the threat which it is supposed to counter is advancing the whole time.

GEC increasingly complains of the problems of trying to cram its systems into a cramped fuselage. The RAF replies that the Nimrod fuselage would have been adequate if the systems had worked as they were supposed to; the problem has arisen from the need to add extra equipment to remedy deficiencies in performance.

There are three possible replacements the Boeing Awacs, already in service with Nato; the E-2C Hawkeye operated by the US Navy, and the Orion P-3C, which Lockheed is seeking to market.

The Hawkeye does not have the necessary range and the Orion, although a well proven aircraft, would be out of the early warning role. The cabinet is under strong pressure now to cancel Nimrod and order the necessary number of Awacs — probably about six.

That would add an additional £800 million to the already overstretched defence budget over the next three years. But at least the money would be spent on a proven system which would dispose of the most unsatisfactory defence project of the decade.

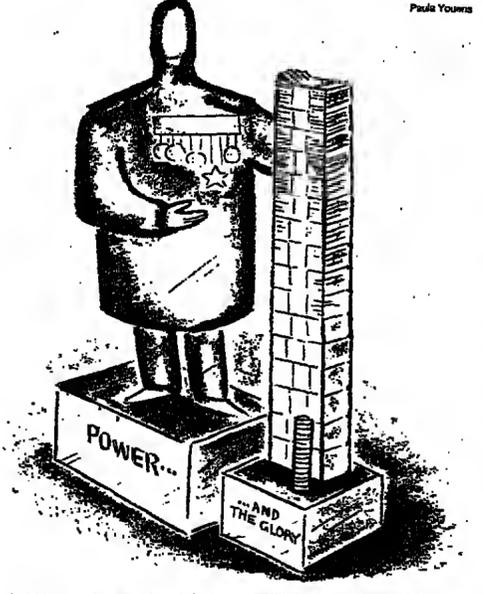
The author is defence correspondent of The Times.

COUNTDOWN TO CRISIS

January 1975	Agreement to replace 1950s Shackletons.	service later this year.
March 1977	Labour government approves project for 11 Nimrods in preference to American Awacs at estimated cost of £250-£300 million for service by end of 1982.	First Nimrod handed over to RAF Waddington for validation £710 million already spent, a further £106 million committed. Negotiations between MoD and GEC to agree minimum operational capability, date and cost for achieving it. GEC indicates four years and up to £400 million or more. At least £900 million already spent or committed.
1979	New Conservative government decides to proceed.	
1982	Defence white paper says Nimrod Mark 3 should enter service following year.	
1984	Defence white paper refers to Nimrod's "introduction into service later this year".	

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Power that enriches while it corrupts



inevitability was brought into it only in the form. "Absolute power corrupts absolutely."

And so it does, and always will. Nor, as my roll-call suggests, is the corruption of power limited to one end of the political spectrum. It is true that supporters of left-wing regimes, and of left-wing insurgents against right-wing regimes, invariably claim that the defeated or beleaguered forces of the right are financially corrupt, and those making the claims proudly contrast their own side's scrupulous purity in money matters, to such an extent that it sometimes seems as though Marxism is not an ideology but an antibiotic, with the miraculous property of cleansing the patient's blood of avarice, dishonesty and a taste for *grandes crises* and *cavali*.

nothing out of it." No, but in between, if we are in a position to do so, we can collect quite a lot, and enjoy it for quite a long time. And when we have the power of life-and-death over our subjects, how easy it must be to believe that if their lives are ours to command, to regulate and even to destroy, then their property is as nothing, and can be diverted to our use without any feeling of unease, let alone guilt.

And in time, such tyrants come to believe that not only their subjects but the very soil of their country belongs to them (literally — among Tito's inventory was an entire island in the Adriatic), and may be gathered in to make their lives still more comfortable.

Here I pause to make a prophecy. The Widow Mao was accused, when after Mao's death his faction was overthrown, of countless crimes; among these was a taste for luxury, indulged at the expense of the toiling masses. The most bizarre of the charges was that she used to eat bat melon, well, tastes differ, and I certainly prefer mine *fluppé*, but that is not the point. The point is that the new rulers of China fingered her as corrupt, diverting to her own use that which was the property of all.

Now for my prophecy: within five years of where we sit, Mao will have been condemned by his successors for precisely the same crimes, only to a far greater extent. We shall learn that he had a vast collection of precious jade, golden armour, silk underwear, whores, crocodile-skin shoes, jewelled cigarette-bolders, Fabergé knick-knacks and a dozen more varieties of extremely unproletarian comforts; with any luck it will be revealed that he went on the Loog March in a Rolls-Royce, with a Fortnum's hamper in the boot.

That will be disconcerting to Mr Neville Maxwell (Felix Greene has died), but it will not surprise me in the least. Absolute power corrupts absolutely, and when a man is worshipped as a living god (I never tire of pointing out that when Mao died there were seven hundred million extant pictures of him in China) he would have to be of a correspondingly diffidence and modesty to insist that he was only — er — *primus inter pares*.

Mankind is not yet perfect, and it is my sad task to announce that perfection is most unlikely to be achieved by the week after next, and that meanwhile greedy swine like Tito will take what they can get, and none shall say them nay. The solution lies not in trying to bury the perfection, but in devising a device that takes the imperfection into account. And there is only one way to achieve that: a form of government which prevents any man from having great power, let alone absolute power, over the governed.

There are, of course, better reasons for democracy than that it prevents its leaders amassing yachts, villas, safari-parks, paintings and vineyards, but that is a very good reason none the less. I don't know whether Tito ever read Montaigne, but if he did I wonder what he thought when he got to the bit which says, "Sit we upon never so high a stool, yet sit we but upon our own tails." I dare say that all he did was to rearrange the silk cushions and call for some more Bollinger. And we would say that what brought him the non-vintage.

David Watt

Fix a link between heart and head

The words that have cropped up most often in the Westland affair (apart, perhaps, from "domineering") have been "anti-American" and "anti-European". As Geoffrey Smith pointed out the other day, it is, strictly speaking, unfair to drag these adjectives into the argument.

It is not anti-American to claim, as Michael Heseltine has done, that the Atlantic alliance would actually be strengthened if the Europeans became less dependent on American arms and if the Americans allowed the Europeans more than a derisory share of the US defence market.

It may be mistaken, but it is not necessarily anti-European to say, as the government has said, that the best way of making sure that the taxpayer does not have to fork out in the future is to allow Westland to grab the surest lifeline immediately available even if it happens to be American.

This will do as an explanation and an apology for the moment. Nevertheless, there is a real problem of national psychology here. There really are strong, shifting and often contradictory currents of opinion about the US ad Europe at work which cannot fail to have a powerful influence on the way British interests are seen.

There is, in fact, an emotional element underpinning Heseltine's logical arguments, which is that the Americans are getting too powerful and contemptuous of us. If a lot of people did not feel this, he would not have made nearly as much headway as he has. On the other hand, if the prospect of European cooperation did not immediately arouse all sorts of atavistic doubts and suspicions, he would have made even more headway.

Trying to chart these waters is not easy, but perhaps the best starting point is Churchill's famous post-war image. This was of the three overlapping circles at the junction of which Britain stands — the American, the European and the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth probably never appealed much to the British public, except when it still looked a bit like the Empire. It has subsequently disappointed policy makers of all political stripes because it has provided a less and less secure basis for British influence. It is now regarded as being of marginal importance even by the Labour Party, for whom it briefly seemed to offer a sublimated form of imperial benevolence. This is a pity, but it is a fact.

The American circle has had a chequered career. It was sustained at the popular level for 25 years by the simple idea that the Americans are "nice people" who speak our language, and that anyway we need them to defend us against the Russians. This view was given a new impetus by the glamour of John Kennedy, but was undermined by the Vietnam war, by the appearance of presidents from Johnson to Reagan to whom the British found it hard to relate, and by nearly 15 years of economic difficulties which exacerbated conflicts of interest between ourselves and the US.

At the point we have now reached, the opinion polls show that while we still like Americans as people, we rather distrust them as a state and are worried about the competence and views of the present administration. For instance, the

addition of the words "American-controlled" to questions about cruise missiles adds 10 percentage points to opposition to them. The British would not have elected Ronald Reagan in 1984. Their view of him as a president is now the reverse of the American: 30 per cent are satisfied, 70 per cent are not.

The political and bureaucratic worlds have taken a more complicated view. There have always been quite pronounced strands of anti-Americanism in the Conservative as well as the Labour Party. The fury of many Tories at the vulgar American usurpation of the Britain's imperial role has been matched by the left's eager adoption of the idea that the chief capitalist state must also, by definition, be an imperialist one, and therefore the legitimate heir to all the moral opprobrium they once heaped on the British Empire.

But mainstreams bipartisan opinion since the war has been that the "special relationship" with Washington was the most comfortable, as well as the most effective instrument of British foreign policy.

Is this sentiment changing? Yes, but slowly. Many senior politicians and civil servants are much more sceptical than formerly about claims that American policies and British interests coincide, particularly in the economic field. And they tend to share the general sense of worry and irritation about the Reagan administration.

But old habits die hard, and most policy-makers instinctively prefer to make a bilateral accommodation with Washington rather than try to improve their negotiating hand by combining with other Europeans. The fact that this may often be the less effective strategy — given that the Americans themselves, except on a very narrow range of defence questions, no longer give Britain special rights — does not alter our mental furniture. The last two British governments have usually ended up with policies based on the conviction that "the moral is, keep hold of nurse, for fear of finding something worse".

If, in the American case, the British still allow sentiment to override some substantial doubts, in the European circle the opposite applies. We are only now, after 15 years in the EEC, and 25 in pursuit of membership, beginning to allow a powerful historic aversion to be overcome by the realization that self-interest forces us to make Europe the main foundation of our foreign stance.

Many recent decisions, of which the Channel tunnel is the most spectacular (and probably, in its present form, the least useful), attest to the change. Because there is little feeling outside the thin ranks of European enthusiasts in the bureaucracy, however, the acknowledged logic of British interest is seldom followed out properly in practice.

The picture I have painted here does not imply that conflict between European and American interests is inevitable: for the most part they are still congruent. I am not even portraying a titanic struggle for the soul of Britain. But we are in a muddle which will take time to clear up. Meanwhile perhaps we could be more often and our confused hearts a little less.

moreover... Miles Kington

Wearing a heart on his stripes

As you must be aware by now, Moreover Enterprises has its very own publishing house: Mills and Bang, which produces nothing but romantic military fiction. The romance appeals to the girls, the violence appeals to the men, and it's all in the same novel! That's why Mills and Bang fiction, as delicate as a spray of apple blossom, yet as tough as a kick in the shins, is always up there in the best-seller list and we confidently feel that this new crop of macho yet maidenly yarns will get you in the guts.

Who her mother and father had died unexpectedly, Sally had inherited their place on the edge of Salisbury Plain. After paying her death duties, she had only 50,000 acres and a stately home left, but she felt it was her duty to the nation to keep it going. Accordingly, she opened it to the public one day a year and the rest of the time had wild parties there for her friends from London.

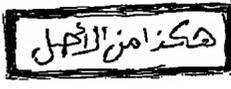
One morning, she looked out of her bedroom window to see that the ancestral lawn had been turned into a crater 40 feet deep. She tried to remember what her weekend guests had been up to the night before, then suddenly realized that it was Wednesday and she was alone in the house. As she did so, she realized there was a man in the room with her.

"Are you the new butler?" she asked. "No, ma'am. I am Captain Roberts of the Yennamshire Regiment. I wish to apologize for my men's direct hit on your lawn. It was a stray shell and will not happen again."

The Gentle Spider's Web, by Trudi Greenleaves. It was not until he joined the Parachute Regiment that Ralph realized he had an unconquerable fear of heights. "Oh, lug," he wept into his girlfriend's denim shoulder-padder, "I do my first drop tomorrow, and I would do anything to get out of it." Judy's heart softened at this first sign of humanity in Ralph. "Don't worry," she said. "I will do the jump instead of you." "But... you have no moustache. No tattoo. They will notice." "I'll wear a false moustache and hastily stencilled tattoo. Judy did her first jump. She loved it. Parachute Sergeant Ivan Thomas noticed her style and fell in love with her on the spot. But he thought she was a mao called Ralph. Never mind — everything was finally settled in a dramatic three-person jump over Brudersbaufen. Souffle of Hearts, by Germaine Moffle. "Four hundred baked beans on toast and one smoked mackerel quiche," said Major "Bob" DeVizes. "Sorry, baked beans is off," said Shirley of the Catering Corps. Then she looked into Bob's eyes and gasped. He was really quite daisy.

"Then make it smoked mackerel quiche for two," he said, reaching over and grasping her oven glove. The battalion later starved to death, but for Shirley and Bob it was never-ending love, plus lasagne on Sundays. Love Beyond Question, by Camille Philofox. "I just want to ask you a few questions," said Sergeant Sam Quiri. "You're a feisty's Interrogation Corps, flicking his electronic truncheon.

"And I want to ask you a question," said brave Bertha O'Branigan. "How on earth can you bear to wear that ghastly combat jacket with that terrible beret?" Sam gasped. Nobody had ever dared to answer him back before. Several torture sessions later and he would do everything she asked, even turo up in a smart DJ and red carnation. But by then, who was asking who the questions? A classic of Belfast backchat.





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

EXCESSES OF LOYALTY

The Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons yesterday reinforced her well deserved reputation for loyalty to her colleagues. There is still unfinished business, however, if she is to regain the reputation for strong government that is her own best political asset and the best available source of good government for Britain.

In the days after Mr Heseltine resigned from the Cabinet Mrs Thatcher was castigated for being dogmatic, domineering and dictatorial. This was never a seriously sustainable charge although it had its uses in Mr Heseltine's campaign for the support of grumbling Tory backbenchers. Since then it has become hard to resist the conclusion that the Government would be in a much better state if she had been as tough in her dealings with certain ministers and advisers as Mr Heseltine said that she was. After yesterday's statement that conclusion is absolutely clear.

Mrs Thatcher told the House that she "regretted the manner" in which the Solicitor General's letter had been selectively published via a telephone call to the Press Association. She also regretted the fact that the Solicitor General had not been consulted about the leak of his confidential letter in which he accused Mr Heseltine of "material inaccuracy" in his advice to the bankers for the European consortium. She may yet have cause to regret much more.

Officials in her office are said to have acted without her knowledge to leak a document in a way that had damaging

political consequences. She has no choice now but to protect them. Nor would her inclination be to do anything else. But she must ask herself whether those who took such decisions are the right people, in the right place, with the right powers if she is to overcome problems like this in the future.

Mr Leon Brittan now has "the cover" to which he felt entitled. He would have preferred the Prime Minister's office to have publicized the Solicitor General's letter in some form. The decision went against him and he was left to do it himself through his own department. The fact remains, however, that Mr Brittan was the senior responsible minister to have knowledge of the unorthodox events that were taking place. It is easy to see the logic of those loyalist Tory MPs who argued yesterday that this sort of leaking is the daily stuff of government, which ever party is in power. It is easy to agree that the Government's banding of the Westland affair has grown out of context and out of all proportion. But logic is a poor friend in politics. Context and proportion matter much more. Mr Brittan, a sound logician has shown himself an unsound politician.

For more than a week potentially deadly issues have been hovering like vultures over the battered body of the Trade and Industry Secretary. Some of them he has frightened away. Sir Raymond Lygo's letter is not the lethal threat it once threatened to be. It can be classified by students of the Westland affair in their bulging files marked "dis-

puted accounts of meetings". And since the BAE chief felt able - for reasons of improved memory or future commercial prospects - to bring his account closer to that of his sponsoring minister, the Lygo letter affair can be set aside for the moment. It did not, however, leave Mr Brittan with an unassailed reputation for candour.

The case of the Maybew letter was never open to the excuse of "misunderstanding". In his defensive speech in the Commons on the 15th January Mr Brittan asked MPs to believe that although he had "consulted the Law Officer" about Mr Heseltine's letter, he had not asked the Law Officer to write his subsequent letter to Mr Heseltine. There were not a few who found this hard to believe even then. But we now know that, while he was making that statement, he withheld the fact that he had himself authorized the leaking of that letter.

The House deserves more candour than it has this week received from Mr Brittan. The prime cause of the Government's damage in this affair is the behaviour of Mr Michael Heseltine. Mrs Thatcher must regret that she did not remove him from her Government well before he resigned. But in the dirty fight that Mr Heseltine precipitated Mr Brittan has allowed himself to be dragged down too close to his adversary's level. Since he has Mrs Thatcher's "cover" she can hardly dismiss him. It would be better now for his government and his party if he were to give her his resignation.

TRIBALISM VERSUS MARXISM

Through all the clouds of uncertainty which have hung above South Yemen this week, one conclusion has clearly emerged. Soviet strategic planning in the Middle East has been complicated by a turn of events which the Russians could hardly have expected, and for which they could still less have wished. Their grand diplomatic design to re-enter the Middle East peace process has suffered something of a reverse. If a pro-Soviet faction wins power in a Third World country, it can be supported and if this is later overthrown and replaced then the new regime can be reviled as a reactionary force, embodying all that is worst in the West. But if one pro-Soviet party falls out with another, over arguments which are personal or tribal, then the Kremlin is lost for an answer.

This is not the first time that tribal divisions have proved too much for Russian ambitions in the Third World. They were only too clearly evident during the early days of the crisis in Afghanistan. But their impact upon South Yemen (containing as it does the port of Aden, a strategically vital base for Soviet operations in the Indian Ocean) can hardly have come at a less

propitious moment for the new men in the Kremlin.

In the Middle East as elsewhere in the world, they had thought they were starting to reap the benefits of the fresh diplomatic style which had emerged in the post-Brezhnev era, with its lighter touch, greater flexibility and less dogmatic pursuit of long-term Marxist ideals. In recent months the Soviet Union has resumed diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates, and there has been talk of overtures to Saudi Arabia. There have even been rumours of links being restored between the Soviet Union and Israel; it is also worth noting that the resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and Spain did not come in for the condemnation it might have earned from Moscow twelve months ago, however unpopular Spain's political leaders made themselves in the Arab world. Gradually the Russians have been able to implant the notion that in any overall settlement of the Middle East issues, the Russians would have to be involved. But is it true?

As Soviet interests have spread round the world so its leadership has also come to

realize the attendant risks of foreign involvement. To take recent developments alone, the drought in Africa has indirectly concentrated criticism on Moscow because of its meagre aid to the starving in Ethiopia. In Lebanon it has become involved in a hostage crisis, a fate usually associated more with Western countries. In Afghanistan the Red Army has come under fire - literally and metaphorically. The Kremlin is being made to realize that in the eyes of the Third World one superpower looks much like another, except when its help is needed, and then it tends to be the United States which responds the more readily.

But what South Yemen has most graphically demonstrated is the uncertain grip which the Russians now have on events outside their heartland. Their talent for crisis management would win them few prizes in any Western training school. At one time it looked as if no satisfactory settlement could be achieved in the Middle East without at some stage winning Moscow's blessing. This certainly can be regarded as a prerequisite no longer. Indeed as yet another trouble-spot is added to the growing list, and Moscow struggles to regain control, the reverse may well be true.

AT HEAVEN'S GATE

Today, about an hour after the Greenwich segment of the western hemisphere enters full darkness, the space probe Voyager 2 will begin its passage through the planetary system of Uranus. The transit will take mere hours before the craft takes off for its possible rendezvous with Neptune in three years. The data about Uranus are a bonus. Voyagers 1 and 2 paid their way with their transmissions from the systems of Jupiter and Saturn. But if new astronomical information about the further solar system comes cheap, it is hard dear.

That anthropomorphic, family feeling we extend to the planets of the Earth's star system makes the data precious to layman as well as space scientist. Voyager's discoveries - Uranus' "extra" moons, clues to its formation, the content of its atmosphere, inference about the planet's core - do more than add to the stock

of local astronomical knowledge. They populate the familiar skies and bring their contents, rock, debris, mere gas, within the compass of human endeavour.

Voyager 2 demonstrates, yet again, the co-operative nature of the scientific project. It helps make comprehensible that yearning for international sharing that so often makes of scientists such naive politicians and vulnerable custodians of the West's freedoms. The probe is American, ditto the analysts of its transmissions at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. But Uranus was the discovery of that eminent Briton William Herschel, 170 years ago, and Australians are only one of the several groups of physicists and mathematicians who will piece together the rich fragments from Voyager. Some have essayed predictions (about the planet's atmosphere, about the mass of its satellites) that will be

put to the test. Others will build from the data even further insights into the process by which the Universe came into being.

The project also shows how false is the common antithesis between science (meaning theoretical knowledge) and technology. The apparatus for receiving transmissions from the probe and for directing its course is both a precondition and an intimate of astrophysical knowledge of the highest abstraction. And in that marriage lies the cause for celebration today about a tiny event billions of miles away. Assimilating the signals from Uranus requires an act of imagination, and they feed it. As they slake they excite a thirst for new knowledge, pure and applied. Today's extra-terrestrial action is a spur to mental effort on Earth; good for science, good for its innovative application, good, too, for our sense of ourselves.

Decline in research

From Dr L. R. Weatherley
Sir, I refer to the views expressed by Sir Christopher Laidlaw (January 8) concerning research and academia and feel that it is worth pointing out that many members of the engineering community within academia have already gone a long way to embrace the approach which he proposes.

The motivation and will to develop ideas into useful products and processes, I believe, is stronger than Sir Christopher suggests. In my own discipline of chemical engineering we have seen within the university community a remarkable flexibility to respond to the needs of industry with new programmes of

development activity in areas like biotechnology, speciality product development, process intensification and energy network analysis, to name but a few.

I agree wholeheartedly with the view that a greater emphasis should be placed on development and exploitation. Unfortunately those of us in academia who take this view are, more than ever, frustrated by the lack of pump-priming funding from public sources which is necessary to demonstrate the potential of an idea to would-be industrial sponsors. This is reflected in the great difficulty in recruiting staff of the appropriate calibre to carry out relevant development work.

Meanwhile we see huge amounts of public funding continually poured

into the prestigious pure science projects which are seldom likely to see a financial return. Generation of wealth by the development of better processes, better products and more effective marketing ought to be the major priority. Then we may be able to justify generous spending on esoteric scientific research.

Unfortunately it appears to be a deeply rooted part of the British culture to measure scientific excellence in terms of pure knowledge rather than in terms of the marketability and commercial exploitation of ideas.

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE WEATHERLEY,
6 Fairways,
Dunfermline,
Fife,
January 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping hospitals free from disease

From Dr R. Eban
Sir, I fear the correct lesson will not be drawn from the enquiry into the Stanley Royd Hospital outbreak (report, January 22), just as war is 100 important to be left to the general hygiene is too important to be left to the catering officers. The only safeguard in institutional catering is a weekly, if not daily inspection of the kitchens by a senior administrator independent of the caterers.

A twice-yearly inspection by an environmental health officer is quite useless in preventing an outbreak such as occurred at Stanley Royd and has occurred more recently (though with fortunately less disastrous results) at another large hospital. I was taught this lesson as a National Service regimental medical officer in the Far East, where the daily round of kitchens and latrines with the orderly sergeant was by far the most important part of my function.

The price of freedom from infection is eternal vigilance (not twice-yearly inspections). Who will assume this responsibility, and what is more, discharge it? In the past, administrators have been reluctant to leave their desks and the financial statements to do the frequent regular inspections of kitchens, toilets and washing facilities, the essential factor in maintaining elementary hygiene. Let us hope that our new managers do better.

Yours etc,
RAPHAEL EBAN,
Ealing Health District,
Ealing Hospital,
General Wing,
Uxbridge Road,
Southall,
Middlesex,
January 22.

From Mr Christopher Storrs

Sir, Mr Norman Fowler's replies in the Commons yesterday (January 21) on the subject of hygiene in hospitals show great disingenuousness. He cannot seriously believe his own distinction between manage-

ment issues and that of Crown immunity.

It is difficult to believe that anything but the immunity from prosecution has undermined effective hygiene and management, and will continue to do so until it is removed. It is also difficult to believe that a Government which is keen to make authorities (local government, trade unions) more accountable, should be so tardy in this respect where Crown immunity is involved.

The most glaring aspect of the issue is Mr Fowler's failure to justify the persistence of immunity. Clearly, this is because there is no argument for it. While Mr Fowler has his inquiry and decides, can we have his assurance of his own resignation in the event of more Oxford-like that at Stanley Royd hospitals?

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER STORRS,
31 Seaton Point,
Downs Road, E5,
January 22.

Mental disorders

From Dr Francis J. M. Farley, FRS
Sir, Positron emission tomography (PET), which you say today ("Cracking the mind's secrets", January 20) gives insights into mental disease, is a direct product of research in particle physics. The techniques used are identical to those involved in unravelling complex nuclear events.

Once again research in esoteric subjects unexpectedly throws up devices useful in everyday life. If we opt out of basic science, we will miss out on the inventions, too. Only one PET scanner in Britain, and that not working, is a natural result of our failure to pursue particle physics more vigorously.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS J. M. FARLEY,
Carswell Barn,
Faringdon,
Oxfordshire,
January 20.

Independence of BBC

From Sir Robert Lusty
Sir, It may not be too late to hope that one paramount consideration will dominate the thinking of the Peacock committee as it ponders its conclusions on the BBC.

It was flagrantly wrong in the fifties, and it remains so today, that it should have been an "Independent" Television Authority set up to establish commercial channels in competition with the BBC. Independent of what? The implication is of some kind of freedom denied to the BBC.

Protests were made at the time and ignored. That these are relevant involved in the thinking of the splendid achievements of the commercial companies or their programmes.

Nonetheless the supreme inspiration of public service broadcasting, as embedded within the deepest foundations of the BBC, is that essential "independence" of motive, constrained only by law and constitution, which gave the BBC a world leadership and a world

authority only lately under threat. It is precisely this which will be sacrificed if commercial advertising becomes any part of any programme to emanate from the BBC.

The governors of the BBC, appointed by the Privy Council, should have this main consideration always in the forefront of their minds. No such responsibility rests, or ever has, upon the members of the ITA. Their functions are quite different.

Boards at any one time may be good or they may be bad. All such have their peaks and their troughs, so too do boards of management. It may matter for a time, but cannot be allowed to be of consequence in the sweep of years.

The true "independence" of the BBC is a priceless asset not only to this country but to the world. It should not be put at risk by the whim of Government or the requirements of financial "logic".

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LUSTY,
Broad Close,
Blockley,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.

Spanish Civil War

From Mr Peter Kemp
Sir, In his article on the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War (January 18) Antony Beevor tells a story, which is in fact quite untrue, about the Count of Alba de Yeltes shooting six of his labourers on the outbreak of that war.

It is based on misinterpretation of a passage in my own book on that war, *Mine Were of Trouble*, published here in 1957. I recognize now that the passage, taken out of its context, is open to misinterpretation, and so I ask you to let me put the record straight.

In fact, the count who, I explained, had a black sense of humour, invented the story himself to shock a naive British visitor, of whose opinions he disapproved. Unfortunately, as I realised later, I failed to make this vital point clear, and although I sought to amend the passage in reason proof, my alterations, for reasons unclear to me, were ignored. My publishers and I subsequently apologized to the count for this unintentional slur upon him.

Should add that the count, whom I knew well, was in fact very popular with his workers, and he would never have contemplated such a crime. Anyone who had committed it would have faced trial from the Nationalist authorities.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KEMP,
24 Radnor Walk, SW3,
January 20.

Born to blush unseen

From Mr Christopher Wade
Sir, Further to your correspondent's list of disappearing forenames (January 3), I have been unearthing some choice 18th and 19th-century specimens in our survey of Hampstead parish churchyard.

Among the men, we have: Armine Snoxell, Fountain Elwin, Blanchard Coward, Alfred Popple, Paramour Ashenden and Hercules Robinson.

But the women are more colourful: Blandina Kesteven, Rejoyce Foot, Idones Punton, Zephrette Hyndman, Onyxia Swinburn and Philadelphia Hancock; the latter was Jane Austen's aunt.

I have found much more *joie de vivre* in the graveyard than in your annual list of contemporary Christian names.

Yours truly,
CHRISTOPHER WADE
(Vice-President, Camden History Society),
28 Willoughby Road, NW3,
January 14.

Paying a price for cathedral entry

From the Bishop of Rochester
Sir, In his letter about cathedrals (January 18) Dr John Maddison is, I fear, misleading about State aid for historic churches that are still in use.

Whilst for a while it may have been true that outstanding parish churches were made application, with their archdeacons' support, together with historic church buildings belonging to other denominations could, if their case was proved, receive a grant up to 50 per cent, this is no longer the case. Under the new arrangement, by which responsibility has been delegated by the Secretary of State to English Heritage, the plain fact is that this new body, acting as the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, does not have sufficient funds available to make grants of more than 40 per cent. Moreover, only a proportion of the outstanding parish churches that are now making application are receiving State aid. Many equally deserving cases are receiving no help at all.

So far as the Church of England is concerned, the prime need is for the commission to have sufficient funds to meet the known needs of historic parish churches, which are accountable under the long-established Faculty Jurisdiction procedure. The reason why cathedrals have never been eligible for State aid is that, as yet, they are not so accountable. It is surely premature to ask for State aid to be extended to cathedrals until the needs of parish churches are being met more adequately, for cathedrals have such a much wider catchment area from which to raise funds.

Most cathedrals have indicated their readiness to become accountable in some such way, as has been suggested in the General Synod's report on Faculty Jurisdiction. This report was prepared to fulfil an undertaking given by the Church of England to the Government of the day when State aid was introduced in 1977.

It was debated by the Synod in 1984, when the Synod also agreed on a considered reply to the consultative document issued by the Department of the Environment in 1983.

Further consultation on these matters has been proceeding slowly ever since with successive ministers of state.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID ROFFEN,
Bishopscourt,
Rochester, Kent.

Fears for library

From the Chief Executive of the Library Association
Sir, Colin Hughes's article, "Carving up the County Hall cake" (January 8) draws attention to the problems involved in satisfactorily devolving the functions of the GLC to a variety of other bodies by April 1.

The Library Association is particularly concerned about the future of the GLC Research Library, which is a part of the Research and Intelligence Unit. To date the London boroughs have failed to reach agreement on the future of the unit.

The research library is the only major library in the country specialising in urban and local government affairs and its services are used by a wide range of organisations (both in the UK and overseas) including local government, private firms, academics and Government departments.

Its databases, the only English-language databases in the world specialising in urban affairs and local government, are used in over 20 countries worldwide.

If the boroughs cannot agree to support the research library it will pass to the London Residuary Body, where its fate will be determined. Unfortunately the London Residuary Body has indicated that it is not prepared to take over GLC functions without funding from either the Government or the boroughs. Since the Government is unlikely to provide funds, and the boroughs cannot agree, the future of the research library is far from clear.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE CUNNINGHAM,
Chief Executive,
The Library Association,
7 Ridgmount Street, WC1.

Sleepers awake

From Dr V. P. Geoghegan
Sir, Why all this fuss about sleepers on the railway? When I could afford it I used to travel overnight in the Aberdeen and Inverness, but I did not contemplate wasting good railway time in sleep.

Miss the Newcastle High Level, the Forth and Tay bridges in the dawn, and that amazing kink in the middle of the Kinghorn tunnel? Sleep, whether at work or otherwise, has no place in the real enjoyment of railway travel.

Yours truly,
V. P. GEOGHEGAN,
3 Somerstown,
Chichester,
West Sussex,
January 16.

attack by insects, boring beetles and fungus. Howard notes that before the sixteenth century, on the Continent, the craftsmen in wood were already aware of the manner in which the use of chestnut mixed with oak formed a preservative to the oak...

Which chestnut?

From Wing Commander B. G. Burman
Sir, Your correspondent, Lawrence Hills (January 3), raises an old chestnut in his quest for information on the resistance to insect attack of chestnut timber. My cherished 1934 edition of A. L. Howard's *The Timbers of the World* quotes correspondence in your pages of over 90 years ago on the very same subject from the then architect to the London County Council, Thomas Blassill.

Sweet chestnut (*Castanea vulgaris* - 28lb 10oz per cubic ft) timber was extensively used for constructional work because of its resistance to

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 24 1809

An episode in the Peninsular War (1808-14). General Sir John Moore, his retreat into Portugal cut off, withdrew to Corunna. There he found that the British Fleet had not arrived. In the ensuing battle Moore was wounded and died on January 16. He was buried in the citadel. "With his martial cloak around him".

[BATTLE OF CORUNNA]

LONDON.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1809
It was but in a part of our edition of yesterday that we were enabled to communicate to our readers a brief notice of some of the chief circumstances attending the battle of Corunna, and the final embarkation of our troops at that place: we shall resume the narration of these important events. The grief that we before expressed, in a public point of view, that the British army was leaving Spain, with hardly a sight of the enemy before whom they were retreating, now gives way to sentiments of private condolence with the friends of the heroes who have fallen in battle.

It appears that on the evening of the 14th, that is three days after our troops reached Corunna, a hundred sail of transports arrived in that bay, and were followed by the remainder on the day following, that is, on Sunday the 15th. It was upon this day that we passed in successive skiffs under the walls of Corunna, the enemy declining a general engagement and seeming only intent upon occupying our army, so as to prevent proceedings in the work of embarkation, till the arrival of fresh forces by which they might overwhelm themselves to overwhelm us. These having accordingly arrived in great numbers by the morning of the 16th, under the command (it is said) of Junot, and a considerable portion of our cavalry having already embarked, the army was seen to assemble around us not particularly on our right wing between 10 and 11 o'clock of that day; and the British Generals prepared with courage and prudence to sustain an engagement, which it was clear had now become unavoidable.

It was obviously the intention of the enemy to turn our right wing, and thus to interpose themselves between the main body of our army and the place of embarkation; but in all their endeavours to obtain this end, they were most completely defeated. Although we were seen to assemble nearly so, was engaged, yet the brigade that was chiefly opposed to them was that under Lord W. BENTINCK, comprising the 4th, 42d, and 50th regiments. After repeated attacks upon this point, in each of which the enemy was repelled with great slaughter, the English, in their turn, became the assailants. Observing an opportunity when their antagonists were thrown into confusion, the Guards advanced to complete their route and charged with the bayonet. This charge, which is generally irresistible when made by British troops, was attended with an instance conclusive of the fate of the day, the enemy absolutely flying with the greatest precipitation, and not daring for the space of fourteen hours during which our forces were embarking, to renew the attack...

It was in the morning of the 16th that the loss in the battle was stated to be less than might have been apprehended, not much exceeding in killed and wounded six hundred men; among these are several Officers. It was in the beginning of the engagement that General Moore received a musket-shot in the breast, which the Surgeon immediately pronounced mortal, and which he only survived till about twelve o'clock at night...

It is unnecessary to say, that the whole of our troops displayed the greatest valour; frequent opportunities indeed of evincing their superior prowess occurred, not only in the final engagement, but during the retreat. The Generals we do most sincerely regret, not only on account of their professional merit, but because information which they must have possessed, seems to us to be necessary to elucidate the views of the Administration in this singular case, and to do our own merits in the execution of them. We shall stand firm in the maintenance of the opinions which we yesterday advanced; and whatever sympathy we may possess for individual sufferers or private grief, we do most sincerely rejoice that the British Army, and the merits of our own countrymen, should give their enemies a bitter taste of their valour...

After Generals MOORE and BARR were rendered incapable by their wounds of maintaining their post, the chief command, and of course the care of the embarkation, would devolve upon General HOPE. The loss of the Generals we do most sincerely regret, not only on account of their professional merit, but because information which they must have possessed, seems to us to be necessary to elucidate the views of the Administration in this singular case, and to do our own merits in the execution of them. We shall stand firm in the maintenance of the opinions which we yesterday advanced; and whatever sympathy we may possess for individual sufferers or private grief, we do most sincerely rejoice that the British Army, and the merits of our own countrymen, should give their enemies a bitter taste of their valour...

Yours faithfully,
ALDEN TODD,
13B Heath Drive, NW3,
January 17.

Staying power

From Mr Alden Todd
Sir, Mr Arnold Butler's testimony (January 16) to the staying power of British ex-Service material echoes what I have thought since 1944. The British-made woollen undershirt that was issued to me that summer, through the American servicemen called "reverse Lend-Lease", still warms me when I go skiing. And I occasionally wear a pair of British Army wool socks that I picked up in 1944 at Chilton Follet, Hungerford, where someone had dropped and discarded them.

Yours faithfully,
ALDEN TODD,
13B Heath Drive, NW3,
January 17.

From Mr Des Foy

Sir, In his letter (January 16) Mr Butler refers to the longevity of Service materials. Early in 1942 I was issued with a complete set of RAF felse teeth.

These have now been in daily use for nearly 44 years, have undoubtedly put in many more hours of active use than the best of your own referred to, and are still as good as when they were first issued.

Yours faithfully,
DES FOY,
17 Bolters Road South,
Horley,
Surrey,
January 17.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 23: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this morning opened the West Norfolk Business Enterprise Trust, King's Lynn Norfolk.

His Royal Highness later travelled to London in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited the World of Watercolours and Drawings Fair and Exhibition at the Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, W1.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Parachute Regiment, this evening dined with the Officers of the Queen's Guard, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, at St James's Palace.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Stenhouse was in attendance.

The Princess of Wales this morning visited the Hospital of Our Lady and St John, The Priory, Wilton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Afterwards, Her Royal Highness attended a luncheon at Stowley Sports Centre, St Thomas's Road, States.

Stowley, to meet people connected with the work of Luton Women's Aid.

The Princess of Wales, attended by Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Lieutenant-Commander Richard Aylard, RN, travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

YORK HOUSE, ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 23: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, today opened the new Children's Unit at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford.

Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
January 23: Princess Alexandra this morning presented the Awards of the Worldwide Bed and Breakfast Association at Kensington and Chelsea Town Hall, W8.

Lady Angela Whiteley was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Mr Neil Diamond, 41; Lord Duncan-Smith, 78; Mr Bamber Gascoigne, 51; Admiral Sir Andrew Lewis, 68; Dr Desmond Morris, 58; Earl Spencer, 62; Air Commodore Sir Archie Winskill, 69.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C. G. A. Younger and Miss S. E. Ferguson
The engagement is announced between Charles, second son of the Hon George and Mrs Younger, of Easter Leckie, Gargnack, Stirling, and Sally, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs K. M. N. Ferguson, of Old Vicarage, Mentmore, Buckinghamshire.

Mr A. S. E. Allen and Miss J. A. Hartley Martin
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Allen, of Cranecroft, Gloucestershire, and Jenny, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Hartley Martin, of Wilmshoe, Cheshire.

Mr A. J. E. Berger and Miss M. S. Walker
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs P. E. S. Berger, of Twyford, Berkshire, and Meryl, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. S. Walker, of Virginia Water, Surrey.

Capt. A. J. Brier and Miss J. S. Matthews
The engagement is announced between Andrew Brier, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and Miss J. S. Matthews, of Elm, Cambridgeshire, and Jenny, daughter of the late Mr K. Matthews and of Mrs A. Smyth, of Limavady, Co Londonderry.

Mr E. A. S. Brier and Miss J. M. Coan
The engagement is announced between Edward Allan Sedgfield, only son of the late Mr E. J. S. Donner and Mrs M. G. Donner, of Sireyville, Berkshire, and Judy Margaret, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P. A. Coan, of Zimbarwe.

Mr M. N. J. Dunkley and Miss A. D. O'Callaghan
The engagement is announced between Marcus Norman James, elder son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs N. J. Dunkley, of Hythe, Kent, and Anne Denise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Sean O'Callaghan, of Boston, Massachusetts, United States.

Mr J. R. Dunkley and Miss M. J. Lander
The engagement is announced between James Rudkin, younger son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs N. J. Dunkley, of Hythe, Kent, and Melanie Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James Lander, of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Mr N. E. Haines and Miss S. E. Littlewood
The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place on May 10, between Nicholas Edmund, elder son of Dr and Mrs A. J. Haines, of London, N8, and Susan Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs J. M. Littlewood, of Bardsley, West Yorkshire.

Mr D. T. Howker and Miss A. J. Foster
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs K. Howker, of Blackpool, Lancashire, and Alison only daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Foster, of Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire.



Mr Rupert Murdoch (left), chairman of News International, and Mr Charles Wilson (centre), editor of The Times, talking to Mr Shimoon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, before a luncheon in his honour at Gray's Inn Road yesterday. Mr Peres is on an official visit to Britain (Photograph: Warren Harrison)

Marriage

Major E. E. Camp and Miss L. M. Mitchell
The marriage took place on January 23, at Guildford, between Major Brian Edward Camp of Thursley and Mrs Lynda Metcalf Mitchell, of Guildford.

Goulandris Collection's new home

3,000BC nude pride of museum

A remarkable marble statue of an almost life-size female nude, fashioned with abstract simplicity to the third millennium BC on one of the Aegean Islands, is the pride of a new museum in Athens housing the Goulandris Collection, which includes the largest private collection of early Cycladic art in the world.

The four-storey marble and glass museum whose exhibits span more than 3,500 years of artistic achievement, was opened this week by Miss Melina Mercouri, the Greek Minister of Culture, and dedicated to the memory of Nikolaos Goulandris, the late shipowner and well-known Maccenas.

Mrs Dolly Goulandris, his widow and president of the Goulandris Foundation, said the collection had been the fruit of 25 years of efforts to keep these outstanding antiquities in Greece and eventually to make them accessible to the public. "I have always felt that cultural treasures should not be the personal property of private collectors," she said.

The museum's centrepiece, the "large female figurine", made of white marble with veins of grey and brown, stands 1.40 metres high. It is one of the two largest Cycladic idols ever found. The other, discovered on Amorgos Island, is reminiscent of a Brancusi or Modigliani. He says: "Like all great artists, these early sculptors transcended the limitations of time and space to produce works which speak to us directly today."

Most of the Cycladic statuettes were found in graves of people who lived 4,500 years ago. But archaeologists are still unsure of the use of these idols during the lifetime of their owners.

One of the most striking exhibits is the almost-shaped head of a woman, possibly a votive offering, which was found in a small earthenware jar. The statue had been seen off to three parts to make it easier to smuggle out. But those who found it, probably in Amorgos, were persuaded to sell it instead to Mrs Goulandris.

Most of the museum's exhibits were acquired in the same way. There are 230 important objects dating from 3200 to 2000 BC in the Cycladic collection, ranging from the violin-shaped torso of the earliest phase to the impressive figurines of the third millennium BC, the vessels of marble, pottery and metalwork.

Professor Renfrew speaks of the "breath-taking simplicity of line" in these Cycladic figurines "which avoids crudeness" and are so

Marriage

Mr C. J. A. Mead and Miss C. A. M. O'Donnell
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Dr and Mrs John Mead, of Havant, Hampshire, and Clare, younger daughter of the late Dr Raymond O'Donnell and the late Mrs Kathleen O'Donnell.

Mr R. C. Perry and Mrs C. C. Sayers
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of the late Mr and Mrs Charles Perry, of Hove, Sussex, and Priscilla, daughter of Mr Arnold Sayers, CBE and Mrs Severn of Carswell, Holbeton, Devon.

Mr S. N. Pritchard and Miss H. S. Jameson
The engagement is announced between Stephen only son of Mr David Pritchard, of Abbot's Ann, Hampshire, and Mrs Daphne Pritchard, of Reigate, Surrey, and Hebe, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Jameson, of Gargrave, North Yorkshire.

Mr J. Ratcliffe and Miss S. J. Foster
The engagement is announced between John, only son of the late Mr Tom Ratcliffe and of Mrs Jean Ratcliffe, of Buxton, Derbyshire, and Sarah Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Foster, of Putney, London, SW15.

Mr P. Roberts and Miss S. A. Willocks
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Roberts, of St Fillians, Welverton, Devon, and Sarah Ann, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Willocks, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mr F. W. Roche and Miss H. J. Pont
The engagement is announced between Fergal, son of Dr K. P. and Dr M. F. Roche, of Bristol, and Heather, only daughter of Dr R. H. and Dr M. E. Pont, of Mission Hospital, Tank, Pakistan.

Mr R. F. Symonds and Miss A. E. Maggioni
The engagement is announced between Robin, second son of Mr and Mrs Guy Symonds, of Windesham, Surrey, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Maggioni, of Brede, Rye, Sussex.

Mr P. J. W. Symonds and Miss A. E. Maggioni
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs W. de W. Symonds, of Bovingdon, Hertfordshire, and Sandra, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs H. R. Heeketh, of Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr M. T. Vernon and Miss H. L. Worsley
The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr W. M. Vernon, of Pyfield, Hampshire, and Mrs Reuben Vernon, of Montpellier Walk, London, and Harriet, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Worsley, of Furlong House, Hursley, Hampshire.

Mr M. T. Vernon and Miss H. L. Worsley
The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr W. M. Vernon, of Pyfield, Hampshire, and Mrs Reuben Vernon, of Montpellier Walk, London, and Harriet, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Worsley, of Furlong House, Hursley, Hampshire.

Mr M. T. Vernon and Miss H. L. Worsley
The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr W. M. Vernon, of Pyfield, Hampshire, and Mrs Reuben Vernon, of Montpellier Walk, London, and Harriet, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Worsley, of Furlong House, Hursley, Hampshire.

Luncheons

Management Consultants Association
Mr John Lidstone, chairman, and council members of the Management Consultants Association were hosts at a luncheon given for Lord Boardman at the Cavalry and Guards Club yesterday.

Institute of Freight Forwarders
The Institute of Freight Forwarders held its annual luncheon at the Cavalry and Guards Club yesterday. Mr J. G. Davis, president, proposed the health of the guests, which was responded to by the Earl of Limerick, President of the Institute of Export, on behalf of a number of representatives of government departments, trade associations and institutions associated with international transport.

British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce
The British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce and the British Overseas Trade Board, was the guest speaker at the members' luncheon of the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce held at the Mansion House yesterday. Mr John Maybaw-Sanders presided and those present included Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, Mr G. G. Gventasidze, and Mr M. J. Llewellyn-Smith.

Patismakers' Company
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, were present at the annual dinner of the Patismakers' Company held at the Mansion House yesterday. The Master, Mr A. N. Ekanzi, presided, assisted by the Renter Warden, the Rev J. E. Scott, and the Warden to the Trade, Mr G. W. Marshall, Judge Sir James Miskin, C. J. Recorder of London, and Mr C. A. Frensdorff also spoke.

Society of Education Officers
Mr Cliff Morgan, head of BBC Outside Broadcasting, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Society of Education Officers held at the Royal Over-Seas League last night. Mr J. Beale, chief education officer, West Glamorgan, and president of the society presided.

Company of Chartered Accountants
Mr Alderman David Rowe-Ham, Master of the Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, accompanied by Mr D. G. Richards, Senior Warden, and Sir John Grenside, Junior Warden, presided at a dinner held at Fishmongers' Hall last night. Judge John Owen and Mr David Williams also spoke. Among those present were:

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister and Mr Denis Thatcher were hosts at a dinner at

Shipwrights' Company
The following were elected officers of the Shipwrights' Company for the ensuing year at a court meeting yesterday:

Woman ambassador for Panama
Mrs Margaret Bryan, aged 56, head of chancery at the British Embassy at Havana, has been appointed Ambassador to Panama in succession to Mr T. H. Steggle, who will be taking up a further Diplomatic Service appointment. She will be the only woman ambassador in the Diplomatic Service.

Other appointments include:
Mr Marjorie H. Field to be president of the Institute of Actuaries from July 1 to succession to Professor Peter G. Moore.

Reception

Civil Service Benevolent Fund
The Civil Service Benevolent Fund held a reception last night at the White Horse, London, to launch its centenary year appeal. The chairman, Sir Brian Cubbon, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Home Office, launched the appeal and the guests included permanent under-secretaries from other government departments, and representatives from civil service trades unions, welfare officers and staff of the fund.

Company of Chartered Accountants
Mr Alderman David Rowe-Ham, Master of the Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, accompanied by Mr D. G. Richards, Senior Warden, and Sir John Grenside, Junior Warden, presided at a dinner held at Fishmongers' Hall last night. Judge John Owen and Mr David Williams also spoke. Among those present were:

Patismakers' Company
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, were present at the annual dinner of the Patismakers' Company held at the Mansion House yesterday. The Master, Mr A. N. Ekanzi, presided, assisted by the Renter Warden, the Rev J. E. Scott, and the Warden to the Trade, Mr G. W. Marshall, Judge Sir James Miskin, C. J. Recorder of London, and Mr C. A. Frensdorff also spoke.

Society of Education Officers
Mr Cliff Morgan, head of BBC Outside Broadcasting, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Society of Education Officers held at the Royal Over-Seas League last night. Mr J. Beale, chief education officer, West Glamorgan, and president of the society presided.

Company of Chartered Accountants
Mr Alderman David Rowe-Ham, Master of the Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, accompanied by Mr D. G. Richards, Senior Warden, and Sir John Grenside, Junior Warden, presided at a dinner held at Fishmongers' Hall last night. Judge John Owen and Mr David Williams also spoke. Among those present were:

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister and Mr Denis Thatcher were hosts at a dinner at

Shipwrights' Company
The following were elected officers of the Shipwrights' Company for the ensuing year at a court meeting yesterday:

Woman ambassador for Panama
Mrs Margaret Bryan, aged 56, head of chancery at the British Embassy at Havana, has been appointed Ambassador to Panama in succession to Mr T. H. Steggle, who will be taking up a further Diplomatic Service appointment. She will be the only woman ambassador in the Diplomatic Service.

Other appointments include:
Mr Marjorie H. Field to be president of the Institute of Actuaries from July 1 to succession to Professor Peter G. Moore.

Shipwrights' Company
The following were elected officers of the Shipwrights' Company for the ensuing year at a court meeting yesterday:

Shipwrights' Company
The following were elected officers of the Shipwrights' Company for the ensuing year at a court meeting yesterday:

Shipwrights' Company
The following were elected officers of the Shipwrights' Company for the ensuing year at a court meeting yesterday:

Shipwrights' Company
The following were elected officers of the Shipwrights' Company for the ensuing year at a court meeting yesterday:

Shipwrights' Company
The following were elected officers of the Shipwrights' Company for the ensuing year at a court meeting yesterday:

Shipwrights' Company
The following were elected officers of the Shipwrights' Company for the ensuing year at a court meeting yesterday:

OBITUARY

MR G. C. LLOYD-ROBERTS

Contributions to orthopaedics

Mr George Charles Lloyd-Roberts, FRCS, who died on January 12 at the age of 67, made major contributions to children's orthopaedics, a speciality in which he had a reputation both in this country and abroad. He was formerly Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and St George's Hospital, London.

He was educated at Eton and Magdalene College, Cambridge, before completing his clinical studies at St Thomas's Hospital, London. He qualified in 1942 and joined the Royal Army Medical Corps serving for part of the war with the partisan forces both in Italy and Yugoslavia.

After the war he completed his surgical training at St George's Hospital and specialised in orthopaedic surgery. He was appointed Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at The Hospital for Sick Children in 1953 and at St George's in 1956.

Lloyd-Roberts had a distinguished national and international career in his chosen speciality. In 1953 he was awarded the Robert Jones Gold Medal and British Orthopaedic Association Prize for his essay on osteoarthritis of the hip joint. He was a British Consultant to both the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

He was President of the British Orthopaedic Association in 1977/78 and Member of the Council of The Royal College of Surgeons from 1976 until 1984. He was appointed Member of the Penicillin Appeal Tribunal by the Lord Chancellor in 1984.

His contributions to children's orthopaedics included, in particular, the management of congenital dislocation of the hip, club foot, Perthes's disease and bone and joint infection.

He was a prolific writer with a style and flair which made his books and many papers a pleasure to read. These included *Orthopaedics in Infancy and Childhood* (1972), *The Hip Joint in Childhood* (1977) and *Orthopaedic Surgery* (1968) which he edited.

He was a gifted and amusing speaker, who was in great demand as a lecturer and visiting speaker. As a result he travelled widely both in this country and abroad always returning with new ideas and interests from what he had seen.

Those who had the great good fortune to work with and to come under the influence of George Lloyd-Roberts will always remember the charming, witty character, who hid behind the mask of the gifted amateur English gentleman a shrewd and penetrating intellect who was very much a professional at his chosen career.

SIR WILLIAM RICHARDSON

Sir William Richardson who died on January 16, aged 77, was for 25 years editor of *Reynolds News* which became the *Sunday Citizen*. He was its last editor, and was knighted the week before its closure in 1967.

It was a radical newspaper, founded in 1850 to support the People's Charter, and although its circulation was never large, it included many of the activists in the Co-operative, Labour and trade union movements, and had an influence out of proportion to its sales.

William Robert Richardson was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, son of a shipyard electrician, and was educated at elementary schools. At 14 he joined the staff of the *Co-operative News*, starting a continuous association for more than 50 years with the Co-operative movement. In 1936 he joined *Reynolds News* as a sub-editor, and in 1942, at the age of 33, became editor.

He was involved in the major political controversies of the post-war years and, under his editorship, the paper was a unifying force and a stabilising influence in the heated disputes of the 1950s which often threatened to split the Labour Party.

In the sometimes bitter atmosphere of Fleet Street and Labour Party politics in his time Richardson was much respected for his integrity, lack of malice and his devotion to the Labour and Co-operative movement which he served all his life.

In 1932 he married Gladys Gillians, who survives him with one son and two daughters.

SIR WILTON LEE

Sir Wilton Lee who died on January 15, aged 81, was founder chairman of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association and president of the stainless-steel firm, Arthur Lee and Sons.

George Wilton Lee was educated at Uppingham and Queen's College, Cambridge; his working life was devoted to the steel industry and to the family business. Starting as an under-foreman in 1925 he took over as chairman of the firm on the death of his father in 1949.

In 1948 half the Lee Group's business was nationalized, but six years later he completed a re-purchase and began to become closely, if reluctantly, involved with the politics of steel.

When the possibility of renationalization returned in 1965 he fought hard to keep the smaller companies out of state ownership.

He became founder chairman of the Association, and on behalf of the private companies developed a productive working relationship with Lord Mel-

chett, first chairman of the British Steel Corporation, a relationship that paved the way for a degree of sensible rationalization between the public and private sectors.

He took a lifelong interest in his native Sheffield. In the early 1960s he chaired the appeal committee for the extension of Sheffield Cathedral, work which was completed in 1966. A few years later he agreed to join a similar committee for York Minster.

He was chairman of the Sheffield Conservative Association for several years and a JP of the city. He was Master Cutler 1950-51.

He had the satisfaction of seeing his business recover from the years of recession and survive as an independent group with strong family participation.

An enthusiastic sportsman, he spent his time after his retirement in 1976 on his farm and developing his Trubrit herd of pedigree fricians. He was knighted in 1964.

He is survived by his wife and three sons.

MR FRED TEBBUTT

H. C. writes:
Fred Tebbutt, OBE, who has died aged 85, was one of the last representatives of that breed of outstanding amateur archaeologist that is unique to this country.

A Huntingdonshire man, he ran his family business in St Neots until his retirement, and was also active in County Council affairs.

It was in this area that he first demonstrated his almost uncanny ability to interpret a landscape from the slight traces that often only his eyes could discern. Many of the leading professionals of latter-day British archaeology learned their craft from him while they were undergraduates.

Tebbutt emigrated to Ashdown Forest when he retired in the early 1960s, when he brought his remarkable talents to bear on the archaeology of the Sussex Weald; until his painstaking fieldwork was published the received view was that there was no prehistoric occupation in the Weald, but he demonstrated that the region had been widely settled before the Romans.

Later, in addition to his valuable work for the Sussex Archaeological Society, he became the moving spirit in the Wealden Iron Research Group, which has made a significant contribution to scholarship since its foundation.

Fred Tebbutt was a man of great charm and modesty, whose enquiring mind and readiness to help and encourage young archaeologists made him one of the best loved and most greatly admired field workers of his day.

MGR JOSEPH CALLANAN

The Right Rev Monsignor Canon Joseph Callanan, Vicar General of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark since 1979, died on January 20, aged 69.

Born on July 10, 1916, in County Kerry, he was the first Catholic to enter Dover Grammar School as a pupil. After secondary training he was ordained priest in June, 1941, and went to St Benet's Hall, Oxford, where he read history.

In 1944 he was appointed professor at St Joseph's College, the junior seminary at Mark Cross, where he taught until 1956.

His administrative skill, fairness and sense of humour endeared him to many within the diocese and outside.

He contributed to the work of many charitable societies and, having become a Chapter Canon in 1960, was appointed a Prelate of Honour by Pope John Paul II in 1980.

MR E. C. PETERS

Mr Eric Conrad Peters, who died on December 28, aged 82, was the only British amateur tennis player to beat the American champion, W. T. Tilden. It happened at Cannes in 1930 at the Carlton Club meeting. Shortly after Tilden had his revenge but only after five hard sets.

Peters won the Belgian Doubles championship in 1930 with H. K. Lester, and reached the final of the British Hard Courts championship, beating W. W. Austin and J. S. Olliff without loss of a set. The same year he captured an English team in South America. With his wife, Effie (Flemming), a Surrey county player, he won the King's Cup in 1932.

Phillips
FINE WINE AT PHILLIPS

WHY IT PAYS TO SELL FINE WINES AT PHILLIPS

We recently advertised for items for inclusion in our sales of Fine Wines. Many people replied, and as a result many are now happily better off.

There are very good reasons for selling your wines at Phillips: a fast valuation service for insurance, purchase and sale, free collection (based on viable quantities), free storage prior to auction from rare single bottles to entire cellars, one of the lowest vendors commissions in the UK and the absence of a buyers premium.

We are currently accepting items for inclusion in our Fine Sale of 18 March, as well as other sales to be held later this year. Should you have Classified Growth Chateau, Domaine-Bottled Burgundy, Vintage Port and Champagne, Rhones, Hocks and Moselles, other Fine Wines and wine related artefacts that you wish to sell, please contact the Head of our Wine Department, Robert Churchward, on 054 46 633, or Michael Welch at the address below.

Prizes 1964
6 magnums
£2,000

Phillips Oxford, 39 Park End Street, Oxford, OX1 1JD, Tel: 0865 723534

OXFORD · LONDON · PARIS · NEW YORK · GENEVA · BRUSSELS
Fifteen branches throughout the United Kingdom. Members of the Society of Fine Art Auctioneers.

Science report
Birds benefit by crying wolf

By Stephen Young

Scientists have discovered an unusual case of deception in the animal world. Many birds that live in the Amazon forest warn their fellows of danger from predators. The research shows that some have learnt to exploit that alarm by raising false alarms for their own gain.

Charles Mann, who is based at the New York Zoological Society, made the discovery while studying mixed flocks of birds in the Amazon forest of Peru. In such flocks, members of one species often act as sentinels, giving a distinct alarm call whenever a hawk is in the neighbourhood. On hearing the call, other birds dive for cover.

In return for their vigilance, sentinels receive a rich supply of insects, which are dislodged from vegetation by other members of the flock. In short, all parties seem to profit from the association.

Mr Mann studied two species of sentinels, which play similar roles in different parts of the forest. One, a tanager, operates in the high tree tops while the other, an antbird, prefers lower branches.

A sentinel's method of feeding often brings it into conflict with other members of the flock. Chases and scrambles for insects are commonplace. Mr Mann was surprised to find that both sentinels tend to raise the alarm during these competitive incidents. Could they be a way of distracting the opposition?

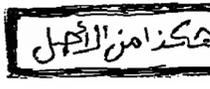
He realized that such warnings were bogus, partly because no predators were in the vicinity at the time and partly because the sentinels made no attempt to hide.

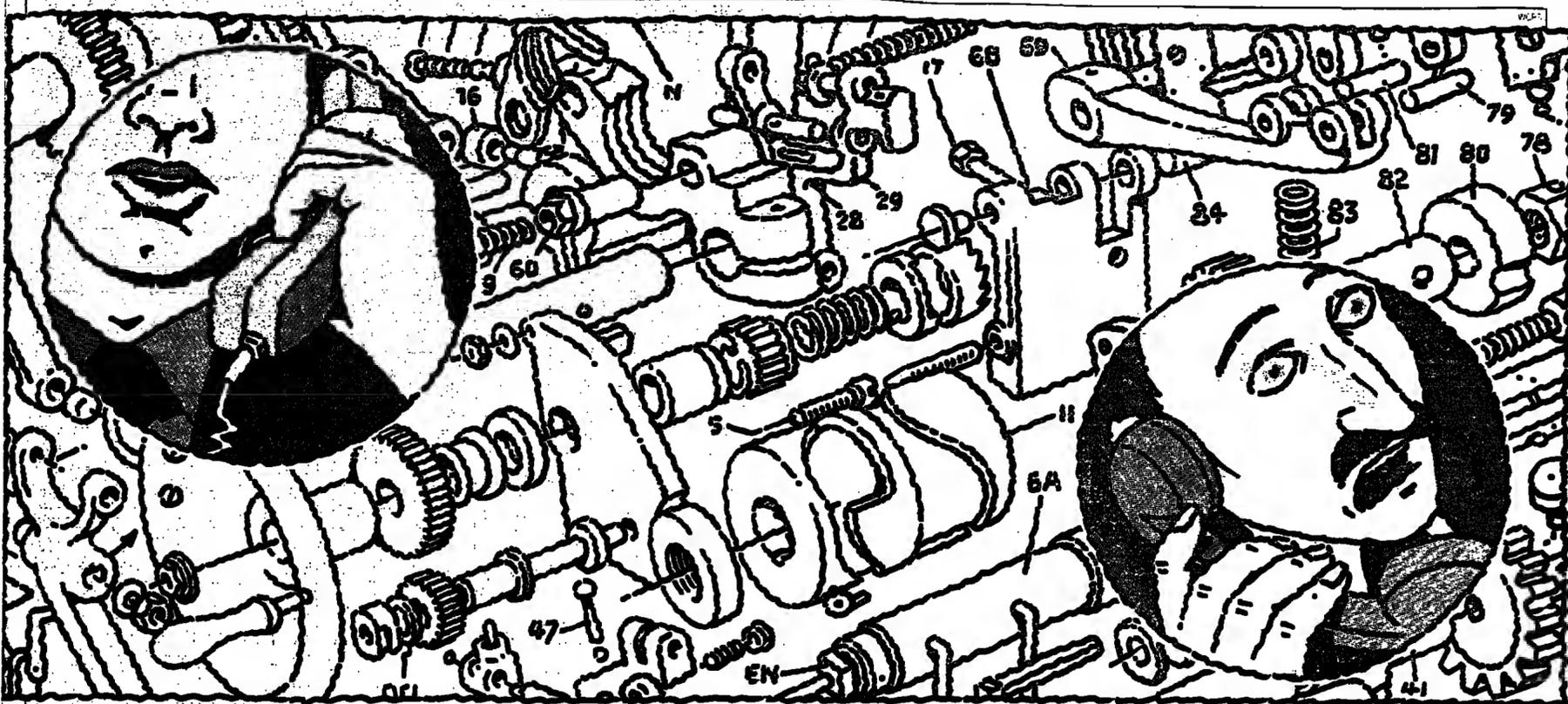
However, other birds in the flock cannot distinguish those alarm calls from real emergencies. Mr Mann confirmed their gullibility by playing them recordings of both types of call, while monitoring their responses. All calls were equally effective.

Why do sentinels cry wolf? The obvious answer is that by creating diversions they secure more food. Although the idea was difficult to prove, Mr Mann was able to support it with other evidence. Sentinels were more likely to resort to fraud, for example, when they needed extra food for a brood of youngsters.

The boy who cried "Wolf, wolf" in Aesop's fable was eventually ignored, so why do the birds persist in responding to false alarms? Mr Mann points to the high costs of a failure to react during a real crisis. As a result, natural selection has ensured that flocks respond to all alarm calls regardless of the veracity of their sentinels.

Source: *Nature*, vol. 319, p. 143





You have a manufacturing plant in Taiwan. And an Italian designer based in Tokyo.

His English is very bad.

You have to explain to him that the gimble pin on the spindle grommet should be facing the overhead bearing on the reverse transmission pin and not the other way round.

You have 15 minutes.

What do you do?

Open the box.

See page 27 of BTI's Business Box. It can revolutionise your communications abroad. Only British Telecom International offer a complete range of international network services. So no one is better placed to help you make the most of the services you're already using. And talk to you about the ones you're not. Don't get left behind. Complete this coupon today. Before your rivals do.

Apply by posting this coupon to: BTI Business Box, Freepost BS 3333, BS1 4YP or by phone (free of charge) on 0800-400-414.

Name & Position: _____

Company Name & Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Business Tel No. _____

Does your business communicate internationally: Yes No Nature of business: _____

AB 0301



BRITISH TELECOM INTERNATIONAL · WE'LL PUT YOU ON THE RIGHT LINES.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Banks still waiting for signal from Old Lady

Ulysses tied himself to the mast and stuffed the ears of his men with wax to resist the Sirens' songs. Likewise, the Bank of England ploughed on steadfastly yesterday, resisting the blandishments of a market now clamouring for 14 per cent base rate at least.

The chances are that the Bank will be forced to yield today and accede to the market's demands. But nothing in current trading is certain. If the twitching hands of the Bank's master mariners can stave off the seemingly inevitable until the weekend, there is at least a sporting chance that the Bank's original game plan of 12 1/2 per cent base rates and no more might just survive. Some of the players in the gilt market believe this. That is why gilt yields yesterday were so remarkably resilient in the face of an almost overwhelming bear charge on the foreign exchange markets. Sterling and oil prices were the cynosure of forex eyes yesterday.

Despite steady-ly later in the day, oil prices were very weak, with trades at \$17.40 for March deliveries of Brent crude. Sheikh Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, gave a warning that oil prices could collapse to \$15 a barrel unless there is co-operation between Opec and non-Opec members on production levels. Such an agreement, he said, should give Opec at least 16 million barrels a day of total output.

The impact on the pound was severe. It fell to \$1.375 before steadying to record a 1.2 cent drop to \$1.387. Sterling fell to DM3.39 against the mark, down 2 pfennings, having been as low as DM3.36. The trade weighted index dropped a full point to 74.3. This week so far the pound's average value has 4.6 per cent.

Yet apart from a brief flurry in Band One bills, the Bank of England kept its dealing rates unchanged, signalling in this way that it drew a distinction between the turmoil of external events and the correct price for domestic credit. The two seemingly contradictory approaches meet in the perception that lower oil prices reduce inflation and we therefore benefit. But at what point does the Bank, after due consultation of its computer runs, decide that enough is enough?

Gilt traders have decided that such a moment is fast approaching. Hence on the one hand is the resilience of the conventional markets, and on the other, the uninspired showing of index-linked stocks.

The clearing banks are still waiting for a signal from the Bank and are unwilling to move until they get it. It could come today with a new gilt sale and repurchase agreement. If the Bank sets this at middle market rates rather than a fixed, and lower, rate the banks would take this as a signal that they can raise base rates.

NFC morsels for the institutions

The National Freight Consortium is still one of Mrs Thatcher's best advertisements for privatization and employee share ownership. But success breeds problems: how to provide a wider market for the shares while retaining employee control of the company? The original £1 shares have a "determined" value of £16.50.

Yesterday, after unveiling a 70 per cent increase in pretax profits to £28.8 million, the chairman, Sir Peter Thompson, outlined proposals for "The Way Ahead". These will be put to NFC's 17,671 shareholders next month. They do not include flotation "in the immediate future."

They do include the recommendation that certain financial institutions should be allowed to participate in the internal market on the four dealing days a year, if there is a shortage of buyers. If this happens the share price would come closer to a likely stock market value.

Less popular with the City is a commitment the board would require from the institutions not to support a takeover against the directors' recommendation. In preparation for a flotation at some future date (but not for at least two or three years) the articles of association would be amended to give employee shares twice the voting weight in the event of a takeover bid. Sir Peter believes employee control is the "magic ingredient X" and does not intend to let it slip away. To further strengthen employee ownership, he wants up to 15 per cent of pretax profits allocated to a profit-sharing scheme through which employees would receive shares according to length of service.

Progress in tin crisis talks

The London Metal Exchange will today again postpone a decision on when to resume tin trading.

It will do so because of mounting evidence of progress in negotiations for a financial settlement of the crisis.

Banks and brokers, led by Standard Chartered Bank, have held serious if informal discussions with International Tin Council representatives over the past three days about the money required from the various parties to ensure a settlement.

Modifications to the plan proposed to the ITC before Christmas by Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered, and Mr Ralph Kestevenham, managing director of Gerald Metals, have been offered to the council.

Tin outlook, page 21



The success of NFC since privatization four years ago has not been unexceptional. The 1984-85 accounts record an extraordinary provision of £17 million to cover the closure and reorganization costs in the parcels division, which last year made a trading loss of almost £9 million. The cost of last year's 1.500 redundancies was £2.3 million and there will be further job losses at Roadline.

When shareholders vote on Sir Peter's package on February 16, they will implicitly be voting on the timescale of the inevitable flotation. The board has said it would take it as a signal for a quotation if institutional shareholders' stake rose to 20 per cent in two years.

Robeco finds a lack of harmony

Robeco, the renowned Dutch open-ended investment fund, has fallen foul of another of those embarrassing failures to co-ordinate the policies of different departments of state. The Department of Trade and Industry is keen to create a free market in financial services within the European Community.

To that end, clause 78 of the Financial Services Bill makes it easier for investment funds authorized in another member state of the EEC to market their wares in this country, with the minimum of bureaucracy and a little discretion.

The Robeco group is a 50-year-old pillar of the ditch establishment. It consists of four funds worth more than £4 billion including the original £2 billion Robeco fund, a pioneer of international investment conducted on lines that combine features of a unit trust and an investment trust company. It is the biggest such mutual fund group in Europe, just the sort of eminently respectable organization the Bill is designed to welcome.

In another part of the wood, however, Robeco is cast in a different light. It has fallen foul of the Finance Act 1984 regulations sponsored by the Inland Revenue to counteract tax avoidance through tawdry offshore funds that roll up their income in tax havens to avoid British tax.

The law was not designed to catch Robeco which effectively distributes all its income, following Dutch rules tighter than those applied in Britain for investment trusts. But it fails subsidiary technical tests designed to close potential loopholes. For instance, it owns more than 10 per cent of several venture capital investments worth about 3 per cent of its total assets and management companies that also trade (as a savings bank to attract customers to save via the funds). As a result, it does not seem about to qualify for distributor status, which would free it from the rightly tough new rule that capital gains on offshore roll-up funds are taxed as income.

This, says Robeco's President, Professor Theo Scholten, would "hurt our English shareholders in a substantial way". And there are between 10,000 and 20,000 of them (impossible to say because Robeco uses bearer shares) owning some £72 million of Robeco and its sister fund Rolinco. Robeco is upset because it will effectively be debarred from marketing in Britain.

Robeco's pleas were rebuffed by the Inland Revenue, which was too pleased that its non-discretionary rules had finally closed some important loopholes to start changing them. Application to the Chancellor has yielded no more than a regretful verbal shrug of the shoulders.

The authorities ought to do better than that. The problem is not simple. Robeco shares a little of the blame by running its own, admittedly linked, savings business. That is no ideal for a group seeking worldwide recognition as a pure investment vehicle. Yet if the drive for a free EEC internal market in financial services is to mean anything, Robeco and the authorities should be able to sit round a table and sort this problem out.

Coats Patons near takeover deal with mystery bidder

By Patience Wheatcroft

Coats Patons, one of Britain's biggest textile companies, is on the brink of being taken over in a deal that would value the company at more than £600 million. The most likely bidder is thought to be Vantona Viyella, although Courtbonds is also a strong contender.

Talks between Coats and the mystery bidder have been going on for several weeks, and Mr Peter Cadbury of Morgan Grenfell, advisers to Coats, said they hope to be able to announce an agreed deal soon.

Coats' interests include the clothing label of Jaeger, and just before Christmas the group bought a majority holding in the Jean Muir fashion business. It is also a world leader in the threads and knitting yarns business. Some 80 per cent of its sales are outside Britain, and it is that which is thought to make the group attractive to Vantona.

Mr Davoud Alliance, the architect of Vantona Viyella, would not comment last night when it was suggested that he might be bidding for Coats. After his acquisition of Nottingham Manufacturing last year -

an agreed deal on lines similar to those now being discussed by Coats - Vantona is now capitalized at around £450 million. Coats' market value was up to £534 million last night after a rapid rise in the shares, which rose to a high of 193p, their highest for more than a year.

Coats' profits last year are estimated to have risen from almost £110 million to £140 million. The company has undergone some restructuring in recent years, and although there are some divisions where

profitability could still be improved, the main economies have already been made. There is one division which might be sold as outside the main business of the group, and that is the precision engineering division, which in 1984 made a trading profit of £17.2 million.

The biggest contributor to profits in 1984 was Coats' menswear and crafts division, half of its turnover being in hand knitting yarns. Home sewing products comes next, followed by industrial sewing products. Retail and fashion wear made

profits of just £10 million in 1984.

It is thought that Vantona would appreciate the worldwide presence that Coats would give it, with operations in Portugal, Brazil, North America and Australia.

But there would also be clear advantages for Vantona in joining with Coats' fashion business. Apart from Jaeger, Coats has a chain of Country Casual shops and has made some inroads into the highly competitive business of clothing the working woman. The recent purchase of Jean Muir was seen as important for Coats, giving it a base to build a whole new design-oriented business that some said might develop along similar lines to Laura Ashley, with a strong home furnishings division. Vantona is already a leading supplier of home furnishings.

The deal between Vantona and Nottingham Manufacturing was put together by Mr Jacob Rothschild. He is believed to have a small holding in Coats, previously held by Hanson Trust.

Imps steps up defence

The war of words intensified in Imperial's defence against Hanson Trust's £1.8 billion bid yesterday when Mr Geoffrey Kent, the chairman of Imperial, wrote to shareholders telling them they would suffer significant asset dilution - materially more than under the United Biscuits merger - if they were to accept the Hanson offer. The first closing date is today.

Mr Kent also said Imperial's £616.5 million valuation surplus related mainly to freehold and long leasehold property, meaning additional depreciation would be less than £500,000 a year.

Mr Kent concluded that the continuing poor performance of Hanson shares meant that the doubts Imperial had expressed about Hanson's ability to grow were increasingly widely held.

Posgate to sue over dismissal

By Alison Eadie

Mr Ian Posgate yesterday issued defamation proceedings in the High Court against the board of Posgate & Denby, his former agency at Lloyd's insurance market, which sacked him from his service contract two weeks ago.

Mr Posgate received his dismissal notice on January 7, hours before his suspension at Lloyd's was due to expire. Mr Posgate alleges that Posgate & Denby wrote to Lloyd's about the reasons for his dismissal, which he says were "utterly untrue".

The letter arrived a few days before the ruling council of Lloyd's was due to debate the question of Mr Posgate's re-admission to Lloyd's as an active underwriter. The council has since told Mr Posgate that it was minded not to accept him and has given him until next Wednesday to appeal.

Mr Posgate says he is suing Posgate & Deoby, because he claims the letter it sent to Lloyd's was incorrect. Posgate & Denby's managing director, Mr Michael Bassett, who is named in the writ with the chairman Mr Robert Brammell, refused to comment. Another employee of Posgate & Denby was sacked in connection with Mr Posgate's dismissal.

Mr Posgate was suspended for six months from working at Lloyd's by Lord Wilberforce, head of Lloyd's appeals tribunal, for his part in the Alexander Howden affair. He was found guilty of accepting a Pissarro painting as an inducement to place business with the Howden group and of not disclosing his stake in the Banque du Rhooe et de la Tamise.

Cockfield urges uniform VAT rules in EEC

Harmonizing VAT systems in the European Community would simplify administration and eliminate the major incentive to fraud and evasion presented by the existing system of zero-rating exports, Lord Cockfield, vice-president of the EEC Commission, said yesterday.

Lord Cockfield told a conference organized by the Confederation of British Industry, that there was "virtually unanimous" support in industry for the Commission's approach to harmonizing VAT systems as part of its plan to create a single "internal market" by 1992.

The Commission's proposals allowed for a "substantial measure of flexibility," he said, and acknowledged that "there may be a need for derogations to meet particular cases of political and economic sensitivity".

Ladbroke merger talks off

By Ian Griffiths

Ladbroke and Granada Group have called off their merger talks aimed at creating a £1.2 billion leisure conglomerate. The announcement took the City by surprise and came after failure to agree on the value of Granada's shares.



Cyril Stein: 'no plans for a hostile bid'

Ladbroke's chairman, Mr Cyril Stein, denied that the company would now make a hostile bid for Granada and said it would look elsewhere for a fourth leg to add to its operations.

City observers were surprised that the negotiations had broken down as all the indications, since the companies admitted last week they were having talks, were that both sides wanted the merger and that it made sound commercial sense.

Mr Alex Bernstein, the

He denied that the failure of the talks now left the group exposed to a hostile bid from another direction. However, one stockbroker said last night that there was no doubt that the for sale sign is now up at Granada.

Granada's merchant bank, S. G. Warburg, was also quick to talk down the suggestion that the company was for sale. A spokesman said: "Nothing could be further from the truth. If the business was available then the deal with Ladbroke might have gone ahead."

However, the attractions of Granada's strong cash flow generated from its television rental business has not escaped the City's notice. It is also a member of the winning Channel Tunnel consortium and will provide the catering facilities at the Kent terminal.

Nakasone promises change

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Japan has reacted to intense pressure from Europe and the United States, with a promise to reshape its domestic economy to include fewer exports and more expansion at home.

The Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, said in an interview with the Washington Post that the first of the new market measures would be announced in early spring.

Expressing renewed fear of coordinated protectionist actions against Japan, Mr Nakasone said he was convinced his nation must act quickly to avoid "serious consequences".

At the same time, in a separate interview in Washington, Mr Noboru Takeshita, the finance minister, stated for the

first time publicly that Japan did not intend to intervene further on foreign exchange markets to boost the value of the yen against the dollar.

The Japanese Government, faced with slowing growth this year, has been under strong domestic pressure from exporters to allow the yen to stay put at a ratio of about 200 to the dollar.

Mitel share suspension

Dealings in the shares of Mitel, the troubled Canadian telecommunications manufacturer, were suspended on the Toronto Stock Exchange yesterday after a report in *The Times* suggested that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission were about to block a takeover bid by British Telecom.

British Telecom said it had had no indication of what was in the commissions report, nor had it any knowledge of what Mr Leon Britten, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, might decide. Mitel described the *Times* report as speculative.

Mr Britten is under pressure from the Canadian Government to allow the takeover.

Fitch Lovell up

Fitch Lovell, the food manufacturer, lifted profits from £7.02 million to £9.04 million before tax in the six months to October 26. Turnover was down from £241 million to £232 million and the interim dividend raised from 3p to 3.5p.

Tempus, page 19

Bids for Payless, the do-it-yourself chain being sold by Marley, have to be deposited with the merchant bank, Hill Samuel today. Widespread interest has been shown and offers of up to £100 million are likely for the business, Britain's third largest DIY retailer.

Switch to BBC

Mr Frank Fitzpatrick, aged 46, the general manager of group finance with the Midland Bank, is joining the BBC as director of finance. He succeeds Mr Geoff Buck who retires at the end of April after 27 years.

Bid approach

Campari International, the camping equipment group, said yesterday that an approach had been made which could lead to an offer. The shares closed 5p ahead at 47p, valuing Campari at about £5 million.

Greycoat deal

The Greycoat Group has bought Lutycens House at Finsbury Circus in the City of London from the National Water Council and British Telecom for £30.25 million.

Frogmore chief

The board of Frogmore Estates, the property company, meets today to discuss a replacement chairman for Mr Kenneth Oliver, who died this week. Speculation is mounting that Frogmore may be open to a takeover bid with a price tag of around £72 million.

A Book of Romance! Passion!! Astounding beauty!!!

NEW YORK!
new york!

'I ♥ NY'
by TWA

A whirlwind love affair with New York is just the thing for spring or early summer. But make sure you go by TWA - the official I♥NY airline.

Your tour is organised by American Express, one of America's most experienced tour operators.

You get special Hertz Car Hire discounts and New York hotel discounts too.

Also, if you pay with your American Express Card before 14th March you get a further £40 discount on car hire and hotels.

TWA's low fare of only £268* is available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays for travel commencing by 28th February. Economy class, 7-day advance purchase. You'll love New York with TWA. Read the book now!

Save £31!
New York £268* return

*Subject to government approval

Please send me the great love story of New York.
To: New York, New York Tour Programme, 20th Floor, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5BZ

Name _____
Address _____

The official I♥NY airline

STOCK MARKETS

FT All Share	1120.4 (-3.2)
FT Govt Securities	89.78 (-3.77)
FT-SE 100	1382.8 (-8.1)
Bargains	23.850
Datastream USM	107.90 (-0.21)
New York	1502.98 (+0.89)
Tokyo	12888.94 (-34.38)
Hong Kong	1762.29 (+24.35)
Amsterdam	252.4 (-8.5)
Sydney: AO	1059.9 (-9.1)
Frankfurt	1968.9 (-75.5)
Bussell's	799.88 (-17.47)
Paris: CAC	271.3 (n/a)
Zurich	439.10 (-11.20)
S&K General	439.10 (-11.20)

GOLD

London fixing	am \$348.50pm \$350.30
close	\$350.25-350.75/£254.00-254.50
New York	Comex (Latist) \$350.05

MARKET SUMMARY

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	
RISERS:	
Newwin-Tonics	135p +40p
Coats Patons	200p +50p
Westland	123p +28p
Cive Discount	43p +8p
Acorn Computer	62p +8p
Campari Int'l	47p +9p
Lyon & Lyon	113p +8p
Whittington Eng	145p +10p
Beecham Group	386p +25p
Cooper Inds	30.5p +3p
Sisters Food	155p +10p
Somportax Hldgs	186p +12p
Unigroup	85p +8p
Systems Design	98p +8p
Sovereign Oil	32p +5p
Microvide	34p +2p
Metal Closurea	138p +8p
Frost J.J.&D	85p +5p
Dyson J & J	88p +5p
Shiloh	91p +5p
Saville Gordon	55p +3p
Sydney Derek	285p +15p
Oceanic Group	38p +2p
FALLS:	
Tanjong Tin	125p -25p
British Oil	7p -1p
Jebsons Drilling	25p -1p
Ferruzzi	135p -8p

CURRENCIES

London:	
£: \$1.3837 (-0.0123)	
£: DM 3.3906 (-0.0205)	
£: SfrF 2.8599 (-0.0368)	
£: FF 10.3693 (-0.1052)	
£: Yen 278.514 (-2.81)	
£ Index: 74.2 (-1.0)	
New York:	
£: \$1.3830	
£: OM 2.4515	
£ Index: 125.81 (+0.5)	
ECU: £0.840721	
SDR: £0.775928	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base:	12 1/2%
3-month Interbank:	13 1/2-13 3/4%
3-month eligible bills:	buying rate 13 1/2-13 3/4%
US:	
Prime Rate:	9.50%
Federal Funds:	7 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills:	6.99-5.99%
30-year bond price:	104 1/2-104 3/4

Table with columns for stock prices, including 'Slump into fourth day' and 'New York (Reuter) - Wall Street's slump continued for a fourth day with stock prices trading lower in active early morning trading.'

Slump into fourth day
New York (Reuter) - Wall Street's slump continued for a fourth day with stock prices trading lower in active early morning trading yesterday.

Table with columns for commodity prices, including 'The falling pound and collapsing oil prices dominated the markets yesterday. Metals did not benefit from sterling's weakness as much as might have been expected.'

Table with columns for foreign exchange rates, including 'The pound came under attack once again yesterday as oil prices continued to slip on the Rotterdam spot market.'

Table with columns for LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES, including 'Three Month Sterling' and 'Three Month Eurodollar'.

Table with columns for MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD, including 'Rates were again fully firm at the close yesterday at levels discounting at least 13 1/2 per cent base rates.'

Table with columns for EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %, including 'Local Authority Deposits (%)' and 'Overseas Deposits (%)'.

Table with columns for INVESTMENT TRUSTS, including '1985 High Low Stock' and '1985 High Low Bond'.

Large table with columns for UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE, listing various investment funds and their performance metrics.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Takeover talk helps to trim the losses

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Takeover news and speculation kept the stock market out of trouble yesterday, helping to reduce what would otherwise have been heavy losses across the lists.

The day began in poor style, with share prices falling steadily in the morning. By lunchtime the FT-SE 100 share index had lost 21.9 points, and the FT 30 share index was down 18.1 points.

Scrimgeour Vickers had Allied-Lyons in to lunch at its City offices yesterday, and noises emerging from the meeting were encouraging enough to put 7p on the shares, to 263p. Analysts at Scrimgeour, however, were tight-lipped about the information they gleaned.

Oil prices and interest rates were again the cause of the problem. Around mid-morning dealers were dismayed to see the spot price of North Sea Brent drop below \$19 a barrel. Warnings from Saudi Arabia that oil prices will fall below \$15 a barrel if there is no co-operation on production quotas added to the gloom and Brent was soon changing hands at little over \$17 though the price rallied later.

Then came a spate of takeover news and the revitalization of several rumours. Coats Patons revealed that it has received an approach which might lead to a bid, and the share price jumped to 200p, up 50p on the day.

The news confirmed speculation which had fluttered around the market for some months, but market men still had plenty to guess about in finding the bidder. Courtalds was tipped as the most likely buyer, with a one-for-one share offer, and its share price rose 10p to 206p.

Extrad, the Australian group which failed last year in a takeover attempt on Tootal, was also reckoned to be sniffing at the Coats Patons business and there were other market men unwilling to let go of the idea that BTR will make an offer for CP. Only on Wednesday BTR announced the sale of Cornhill Insurance for £305 million which is bound to be spent on acquisitions.

McKechnie Brothers put in a bid for Newman Tonks, and sent the latter's price 40p higher to 135p. McKechnie fell 9p to 204p, partly reflecting market disappointment over the hoped-for bid for McKechnie itself. Williams Holdings, which has more than 6 per cent of McKechnie, was expected to make a move soon.

Back among the rumours, Beecham Group was again on the move, the shares gaining 25p to 366p. The latest suggestion from the market was that Unilever and ICI are ready to launch a joint offer for the household goods and drugs combine. BAT Industries is also reckoned to be about to pounce on Beecham. Distillers gained 10p to 570p

in late trading as the market suddenly became convinced that the Guinness takeover bid would not be referred to the Monopolies Commission. Meanwhile it seems that GEC is continuing to sell Distillers shares. At one time it had more than 10 million. Now, it is reliably understood, the GEC stake is about 2 million.

With all these excitements, off early losses of around £¼ to close virtually unchanged. British Telecom fell 2p to 180p on yesterday's report in The Times that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission would block its bid for Mitel, the Canadian electronics group. Mitel shares were suspended at 430p.

Rugby Portlaine Cement recovered from 3¼p fall to show a

share at prices up to 147p. His shareholding is now 1.2 per cent.

Marks and Spencer was unsettled by a broker's sell recommendation. The shares fell 3p to 165p. Fritchard Services gained 2½p to 69p on suggestions of a bid. Hawley was again mentioned as a possible predator. Clive Discount sprang to life with takeover speculation again providing the spur. The shares rose 6p to 43p.

Campani, the camping and leisure group, rose 5p to 47p as the long-suspected presence of a bidder was confirmed. Klearfold, the packaging group, could not have chosen a worse day for its market debut. It closed 116p against a 118p offer price.

Breakmate continued to respond to the start of takeover negotiations, rising a further 20p to 185p. Staneleo improved 5p to 43p as Mr Peter Beswick, with Henderson Crosswhite, the broker, and Mr David Landau, a solicitor, acquired Pavilion International's 60 per cent shareholding at just 10p a share. A 10p-a-share offer goes to other shareholders.

Pavion, a cosmetics group, recently sold its controlling shareholding in Sangers Photographic.

There was a flurry of late business in Cooper Industries as the market geared itself for further action there. Kennedy Smale, which holds 21 per cent of Cooper, is expected to make

an offer, but Rosedale Investments, which is friendly to the Cooper board, continues to buy shares.

Earlier this week Rosedale bought around 4 million shares, taking its stake to 13 per cent. Another 14 per cent holding in Cooper is believed to be controlled by one investor, though no one is sure which side such a holder will take. The Cooper price moved above 30p

Profits of KLP Group, the sales promotion and direct marketing group, jumped from £962,000 to £1,356 million in the year to last September and should hit £1.8 million this year. The company made seven acquisitions last year, and is expected to keep up the takeover pace this year. The shares were unchanged at 315p.

in late trade, having opened the day at 27½p.

Home Charm Group fell 2p to 242p. Wood Mackenzie & Co., the broker, has returned the shares to its buy list. It has, however, lowered its profit forecast from £13.5 million to £12 million. In its previous year the Texas Homecare group achieved profits of £10.8 million. HCG's shares have come down from 368p last year and Wood Mackenzie feels they are now very cheap for a stock traditionally commanding a significant premium.

The broker has also lowered its current year forecast from £19 million to £17 million.

TEMPUS

ICI reaps reward as the pound comes under fire

Sterling's plight may be viewed as poison in some quarters but for the chemical companies and for ICI in particular, it is pure nectar. Every penny of the sterling exchange rate adds between £5 million and £7.5 million to ICI's profits, according to the broker, James Capel and Co. With a fall of nearly 20 pennings so far this week, that represents about an extra £100 million of profit for ICI.

The steady decline in the sterling-mark exchange rate since the summer has been reflected in a steady rise in the ICI share price. While the value of the pound against the mark has fallen by more than 16 per cent since the summer, ICI's share price has improved by 24 per cent from the September low of 632p. Yesterday ICI added 11p to close at 782p, as the pound dipped again against the mark.

Buyer and Hoechst, the German chemical companies, also saw their share prices strengthen. So, too, did Hickson International and Laporte, which also benefit from the strong mark. ICI's high proportion of mark-related sales is high, representing about 25 per cent of the total and well ahead of mark-linked costs.

About £300 million has been notionally added to ICI profits since July when there were few marks to the pound. There are currency swings as well as roundabouts: if the pound begins to strengthen against the mark profits fall. What ICI would appreciate most is stability, and its would not complain too much if sterling was locked into the European Monetary System at the current rate.

Clearly it is not just exchange rates which affect ICI's stock market rating. When the shares were at their January peak of 882p the pound-mark was 3.60. It is below that, but the share price is still only 782p. This, in some measure, reflects the inevitable time lag between physical transactions and their impact on the company's results. The view is that the gains to ICI will not begin to appear until the second quarter this year. The shares should be held as the currency benefits will eventually flow through.

Now that food is a fashion business, manufacturers are having to show some nimble footwork. Fitch Lovell, in deals totalling £100 million in two years, has withdrawn from retailing and general wholesaling and invested heavily in specialist distribution, convenience products and white meats. While the main switch of emphasis is now complete, further acquisitions are likely.

The benefits of the policy are apparent in the interim results. Profits rose by 29 per cent to £9.04 million even though sales were slightly down, reflecting the disposal of the cash and carry business. Earnings per share were 26 per cent higher.

The company's move away from fatty meats was given extra impetus in the half year by a scare about the content of pork products. Sales of sausages were down by 20 per cent at one point. The damage to

profits, however, was offset by a fortuitous drop in the cost of pack which on its own probably added £750,000 to group profits. Given the company's vulnerability to both health fads and volatile prices, further acquisitions in this field are unlikely.

Trent Meats, a producer of cooked meats, acquired last year and other recent purchases contributed a further £750,000. But the sale of the cash and carry business cost £300,000.

The second half will include maiden contributions from two specialist distributors and from Ashmount, a manufacturer of turkey and chicken products. Ashmount has just developed a process that will extend shelf life to three months but it is too early to say how successful this will be.

After this year's purchases Fitch Lovell is likely to end the year with net debt of £10 million. That still leaves scope for further expansion, though the company is now anxious to avoid paying too much goodwill.

At 265p the shares are trading on 16 times prospective earnings, a rating which allows the company to continue making acquisitions without dilution.

Standard Chartered

Standard Chartered has been one of the dimmer stars in the banking constellation since 1981. Unfortunately its prospects, in near term, do not look significantly brighter. Yesterday the shares dropped 5p to 434p, helped down by a report from the brokers W. Greenwell, revising downwards earlier profit estimates for 1985 and 1986.

Out of seven major geographical areas of operation, at least five are showing a fall in profits or no gain. In South Africa, Stanbic (Standard Bank Investment Corporation) has admitted that deteriorating business conditions would not allow more than modest growth at best during 1985.

Conditions in Hong Kong are difficult. From zero profit in 1983, the contribution leapt to a profit of HK\$290 million the following year. The figure is expected to fall back to around HK\$230 million for the whole of 1985.

Standard Chartered also faces the problem of currency fluctuations. Its profits are earned in South African rands and US dollars. Since the bank reported an interim profit improvement of 40 per cent last year, both currencies have dropped in value - the dollar by around 20 cents.

Taking these considerations into account, Greenwell's analysts have revised their 1985 profit estimates from £276 million to £254 million and their 1986 estimate from £320 to £280 million. This could be a premature judgement. The Singapore businessman, Tan Koon Swan, who was probably the last hope of saving something from the wreckage of Pan Electric, has left the scene. Standard is involved to the tune of £35 million around half of it secured against property and business in Singapore.

APPOINTMENTS

Tootal Group: Mr Geoffrey Maddrell is to join the board and become managing director. Conoco U.K.: Mr John Ogren succeeds Mr Harry Sager as chairman and managing director. Mr Sager becomes vice-president, North American production.

Lloyds Bank: Mr Leon Wilkinson has been appointed chief financial officer. British Nuclear Fuels: Mr Christopher Harding is to be chairman and Mr Neville Chamberlain chief executive.

The Institute of London Underwriters: Mr David Lowen has been elected chairman and Mr John Parton deputy chairman.

Trafalgar House: Mr Alan Kennedy has been appointed a non-executive director. He will become a full-time executive director on March 31 with responsibility for the group's shipping and hotel operations.

Bovril: Macalister & Senior: Mr Len Hughes becomes chairman. Mr Gordon Senior and Mr John Paul become joint deputy chairmen and Mr Alan MacKay and Mr

Mike Adam joint managing directors. Petrocon Group: Mr John Carney has been appointed group financial director.

The Guidehouse Group: Lord Derwent has joined the board as a non-executive director. Mr Jonathan Davis becomes managing director of Guidehouse, Mr Michael Jackson managing director of Guidehouse Securities and Mr Harold Bach managing director of Greyfriars Trust.

Taylor Woodrow: Mr R. G. Smith becomes chairman of Taylor Woodrow Construction (Northern). Mr E. van der Lee becomes chairman of Taylor Woodrow Construction (Scotland), and a director of Taylor Woodrow Construction (Northern). Mr M. Laycock has joined the board of Taylor Woodrow Construction (Scotland).

Turner & Newall: Mr Bill Barnes has been appointed a director of Storeys Decorative Products.

Philips Radio Communication Systems: Mr Ian McKenzie has been named as managing director.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for company names and share prices. Includes Abbot Mead Vickers, Ashley, Cable & Wireless, etc.

Table with columns for company names and share prices. Includes Abbot Mead Vickers, Ashley, Cable & Wireless, etc.

Base Lending Rates

Table showing base lending rates for various banks: ABN Bank, Adam & Company, BCCI, etc.

Large advertisement for Abbey National Five Star interest. Features five stars, interest rates (8.75% to 9.50%), and contact information for Abbey National Building Society.

City waits with open arms for Wellcome on Valentine's Day

By Clare Dobie

Wellcome, Britain's second largest drug company, is famed for its ability to bring together lateral thinking brains and foot-in-the-door salesmen. When the company is floated on the stock market next month the City seems bound to unroll a red carpet, inscribed with an eponymous but fairly obvious message of greeting.

But the drugs group has been even cleverer. In order to guarantee a good reception for the shares, it has arranged for trading to start on February 14, St Valentine's Day. It is hoping for love at first sight.

Even though the stock market has fallen recently, there seems little doubt that investors will be queuing up, cheque books in hand, to subscribe for shares. After the flotation the group will probably be valued at comfortably over £1 billion.

A special poignancy attaches itself to the whole idea of a Wellcome flotation. Underlying its undoubted commercial success there is a hard core of traditional philanthropy, not unlike the Quaker traditions which are part and parcel of Rowntree Mackintosh. It is the commitment to human well-being, as well as a keen eye for the market opportunity, which has led Wellcome to plough huge chunks of its research and development budget into work on treatments for herpes and AIDS.

Until now Wellcome's only shareholder has been a charity, the Wellcome Trust. It was the trust's decision to sell some of its shares, so it could spread its investment portfolio, that has led to the flotation.

According to Sir David Steel, chairman of the trustees, there was concern about having "all our eggs in one basket, notwithstanding the excellence of that basket". The relationship between the trust and the company dates back to 1936, the year Sir Henry Wellcome died. Sir Henry, a pharmacist and collector, founded Wellcome in 1880, together with Mr Sijas Burroughs, a fellow American and a keen salesman.

From the start there was a tension between Sir Henry's strong commercial instincts and his religious background. When he was 21 he wrote to his parents: "I have always had a desire for wealth and still have... but I want to live a life devoted to the true God and to mankind".

The trust was set up under the terms of Sir Henry's will. It was to own the company, then called Wellcome Foundation, so it could use the profits for medical research. In the 30 years of its existence the trust has received £150 million from Wellcome. It was able to spend

	1985	%
Cough and cold preparations	142	17
Systemic antibiotics	98	12
Topical anti-infectives	83	10
Anti-pain preparations	80	10
Anti-virals	62	7
Cardiovascular treatments	60	7
Muscle relaxants	37	5
Antipsychotics	29	4
Diagnostica	17	2
Vaccines	9	1
Other pharmaceuticals	104	13
Other non-pharmaceuticals	103	12
Total	825	100

£22 million last year, making it the largest medical research charity in Britain.

Wellcome, the company, has an almost unrivalled reputation for producing new drugs. Historically it has attracted some of the brightest and best researchers available and, until last year, it had what many in the scientific community regarded as the best pharmacological department in the country.

It was led by Sir John Vane, a Nobel prize winner, and Sir James Black, another world renowned scientist. Their time saw the development of both aspirin and Zyloric, a treatment for gout which still accounts for 10 per cent of Wellcome's sales.

But their main contribution to Wellcome was their work on anti-virals, a field where Wellcome now has a commanding lead. Zovirax, a treatment for herpes, was first launched in 1981, when many Americans feared an outbreak of epidemic proportion.

Wellcome is currently carrying out clinical trials on a new anti-Aids drug but, as the company is the first to admit, it could be years before the drug reaches the market.

The time lapse between discovering a drug and launching it on the market makes it difficult to assess the contribution of individuals. It is clear, however, that the presence of Sir John Vane and Sir James Black attracted other brilliant researchers, who seem to have been undeterred by rivalry between the two great men.

Whether or not it was as the result of a power struggle or on the advice of Arthur D. Little, the consultants brought in to report on the management of Wellcome's research, both Sir James and Sir John left the company last year. As one academic put it: "Morals was shattered. The two big names had gone and, as if to add insult to injury, the Trust gave a vote

of no confidence by announcing its decision to sell some of its shares."

Earlier this month Dr Pedro Cuatrecasas, the head of American research, announced plans to join Glaxo, Britain's largest pharmaceutical company. Wellcome's public relations team did its best to play down the importance of the departure but its task was made by more difficult by subsequent events.

With only two weeks to go before the prospectus was due out, Mr Bill Sullivan, the head of Burroughs Wellcome, the American subsidiary, resigned very suddenly on January 13.

Wellcome's chairman and chief executive, Mr Alfred Sheppard denied there had been a dispute about who would be his heir apparent, but Mr Sullivan's unexpected loss nevertheless underlines the tension between the American and British ends of the operation.

The United States has powered Wellcome's growth in the past five years, when sales have doubled from £500 million to £1 billion and profits have risen from £50 million to £122 million.

The loss of four key figures in less than 12 months is particularly unfortunate in view of the imminent flotation.

Wellcome is doing its best to dispel the cloud hanging over it with roadshows and presentations to financial institutions. But there is no British Telecom style appeal to private investors.

Great play is being made of the company's future plans: in which the anti-Aids drug clearly plays an important part. Other new drugs include Wellbutrin, an anti-depressant which will be launched in the US this year and a new antihistamine, and research continues on treatments for glandular fever and further uses of existing products.

Wellcome is also trying to break in to the Japanese market. These projects should keep Wellcome's profits moving firmly forward over the next two or three years. This year, however, is proving more problematic, thanks to the vagaries of the exchange rates. The fall in the dollar has hit Wellcome hard so that it is not expected to push up profits very far in the year to end August. The flotation could have been better timed.

The shares will not be finally priced until January 29, when the prospectus is published. Unlike the Government, which has an interest in sponsoring people's capitalism, Wellcome Trust only has an interest in raising as much money for research as possible. This means the margin for error is small. This time, it is science and not the Treasury that benefits.

COMPANY NEWS

IN BRIEF

RANKS HOVIS MCDUGALL: The chairman says in his annual report that current trading results remain encouraging. As stated in December, the bad wheat harvest of 1985 made it difficult to forecast the outcome for the current year. Otherwise, he says, the company has made a good start and he expects to report another satisfactory year.

IMRY PROPERTY HOLDINGS: An interim dividend of 1.8p (1.7p) payable on April 8 has been declared. With figures in £000, gross rents from investment properties totalled 3,053 (2,573) for the half year ended December 31.

WILLIAM DAWSON (HOLDINGS): A final dividend of 9.6p making 12.4p (10p), payable next Monday, has been announced for the year to September 30. Turnover was £36,336,000 (£30,304,000), pretax profit £3,620,000 (£3,004,000) and profit after tax £2,080,000 (£1,698,000). Earnings per share were 27.4p (24.5p) and net income totalled £14.9 million.

NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK OF SAUDI ARABIA: net profit available for distribution for the year to December 31 was £19.5 million (£19.5 million) or £19.5 million from 49.4 million. But net income totalled £14.9 million.

CENTROVINCIAL ESTATES: The company has declared an interim dividend of 3p (3p) payable on April 7, for the six months to September 30. With figures in £000, gross rental income was 4,538 (£4,412) and net income from properties before interest and tax 2,723 (£2,445). Earnings per share were 5.44p (£5.95).

MICROGEN HOLDINGS: A final dividend of 3p making 4.5p (2.5p) for the year to December 31 has been declared. With figures in £000, turnover was up to 23,114 (£19,843), profit before tax to 5,062 (£3,318) and profit available to shareholders £2,614 (£2,081). Earnings per share before extraordinary items were 16.3p (£9.9).

JOHN BEALES: Results for the year to November 30 include an interim dividend of 1.5p (1.2p). With figures in £000, turnover was 7,694 (£7,027), gross profit 685 (£527) and operating profit 357 (£239). Earnings per share, fully diluted, were 8.1p (£5.9).

CLYDE BIRK: The chairman states in his progress report that efforts are now concentrated on the reorganization required to compete in the company's "very challenging market". The board has accepted by agreement the resignations of Mr R. P. Pary, and Mr J. M. Yates.

PARKDALE HOLDINGS: Results for the six months to October 31 show an interim dividend of 0.375p (0.25p), payable on February 28. Earnings per share were £281,609 (£261,145) with financial services income at £232,986 (£233,829).

HILL AND SMITH HOLDINGS: The report for the year to September 30 includes a 10p capitalization plan. A dividend of 2.6p (2.675p) making 3.85p (3.675p) is also included. With figures in £000, turnover rose to 27,408 (£27,380) and profit to 3,261 (£1,438). Earnings per share net basis were 11.16p (10.95p) and nil basis 11.16p (8.17p).

DERBY TRUST: A second interim dividend of 1.2p (1.2p) (5.535p) making 3.3681p (7.115p) payable on February 28, has been declared. With figures in £000, income from fixed assets, investments, dividends and interest totalled 1,542 (£1,390). Net earnings per share were 3.3681p (7.115p) an asset attributable to capital shares £2,474 (£2,335).

THOMAS FRENCH & SONS: A final dividend of 1.725p (1.725p), making 2.375p (2.375p), payable on September 28 has been announced. With figures in £000 sales totalled 26832 (£25353), operating profit 905 (£1562) and pretax profit 917 (£1613). Earnings per share were 1.05p (1.3p).

ESTATES PROPERTY INVESTMENT CO: Results for the six months to October 31 include an interim dividend of 3p (2.75p). With figures in £000, net rent receivable totalled 3,055 (£2,697) less ground rents payable 563 (£400). Net property income was 2,235 (£1,998) and earnings per share were 5.98p (£4.83p).

RYAN HOLDINGS: Results for the six months to September 30 (figures in £000) show turnover of 10,441 (£9,411), operating profit of 365 (£290) and pretax profit of 135 (£129). Earnings per ordinary share shipped to 1.21p (1.26p). An interim dividend of 0.4p (0.25p) payable on April 10, has been announced.

UNION CARBIDE: A quarterly dividend of \$1.25 or 89p per share (80.85), payable on March 1, has been announced. The board has authorized that the previously announced three-for-one stock split be effected in the form of a stock dividend on the corporation's issue shares. The new shares will be distributed on March 1.

DENHAM ELECTRICAL: A final dividend of 2.45p (2.25p) making 3.7p (3.5p) has been declared in the results for the year to August 31. With figures in £000, turnover was 18,665 (£17,608) and pretax profit 1,002 (£948). Earnings per share were 13.40p (£13.38p).

LONDON AND NORTHERN GROUP: The southern companies in London and Northern Group have been awarded contracts worth £3.94 million in the north of England and southern Scotland.

EMESS LIGHTING: The company has issued a further £400,000. Consideration is to be satisfied by the issue of 80,000 Emess ordinary shares and £100,000 loan stock at £5.00 per share.

ARGENTEX RESOURCE EXPLORATION: The company has raised £500,000 in a private placement of shares at £1.00 per share (£150,000 by the end of May). The proposed public offering through the Vancouver Stock Exchange has been withdrawn.

ATHLETICS: COMMONWEALTH GAMES RULING COULD LEAD TO NEW CONTROVERSY

Budd's Edinburgh entry at risk

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

The immediate concern over Zola Budd's late arrival back in Edinburgh, but with the Games opening on July 24, and individual events due on July 6, she would not qualify even if she stayed in England.

Of the other qualifying six months since July 24 last year, Miss Budd has only spent a handful of days in her Guildford digs. One factor which may help Miss Budd's case is a sub-clause relating to a residence in the new country of qualification. On a brief trip to London last November, to receive the women's award of the British Athletics Writers Association, Miss Budd did buy a house in Guildford.

Curiously for a man who has raced indoors, albeit irregularly, over the last 12 years, Coe has never competed in the senior 1,500 metres, at which he has won two

African coach, Peter Labuschagne, that he would not be welcome back in England. Compared to this latest political problem for Miss Budd and her backers, the defence of her 1,500 metres title at Cosford, which begins with this evening's heats, should be easy.

In the two-day meeting sponsored by Pearl Assurance, there will be much more competitive interest, especially in the 5,000 metres and 200 metres. David Lewis is prepared to give Sebastian Coe a serious test over 3,000 metres in tomorrow's final, if Coe fails to run the longer distance, as expected, instead of the 1,500 metres.

Curiously for a man who has raced indoors, albeit irregularly, over the last 12 years, Coe has never competed in the senior 1,500 metres, at which he has won two

Olympic gold medals. But he has won the 1,000 metres twice, the latter in 1981 in 7min 55.2sec, one of the fastest championship times. But Lewis, the title-holder, is looking to break the championship best of 7:50.0 by an Stewart in 1972. He said yesterday: "As soon as I heard Coe might be running, my training cut out hill running, and replaced it with track sessions. I hope Coe does run, because I'm feeling quite sharp. I realize that if he's still with me 400m to go, it will be a good day. But I'm thinking more of a fast last 1,000 metres."

Two of the best races at Cosford last year were the 200 metres contest between A. M. Bennett and Todd Bennett. They won one each, but since Mafie had beaten Bennett the previous year, Bennett is now seeking to redress the balance.

FOOTBALL

Bond joins Birmingham

John Bond (right) with his assistant, Fred Davies, after talking over at Birmingham City yesterday



Manchester City, although Bond's immediate predecessor in 1980 was Malcolm Allison.

Birmingham City at the time were anchored to the foot of the first division without a League victory. As well as keeping the afloat, he led them to the FA Cup final. Three years later he resigned, saying that he was not prepared to "take money under false pretences".

Bond stepped down into the lower divisions, first with Burnley and then with Swansea. His new side have lost their last nine games of some and have not under Saunders, they were humiliated by Luton in the FA Cup.

Bond, who takes over without a contract, plans to select the first team for a reserve match against Chelsea tomorrow (Birmingham have on Canon League fixture). Fred Davies, a former colleague of Swansea, will be his assistant and Kevin Reeves, once of Norwich and Manchester City, is to become Birmingham's coach.

And if that is my son in this random double-handed survey, what

More football, page 22

Why gridiron scores over Rugby Union

A game failing to realize its potential

It was a heart-warming welcome home accompanied with, to him, a death-defying leap with arms outstretched, as he was met by a throng which all fathers love from their sons. The Twickenham match was over and dead.

But the England-Wales game is now over... "No, you don't understand..." Not many parents do, I reflected, as the first signs of a generation gap yawned between me and my seven-year-old... "No, I want to tape the Super Bowl. American football is on Sunday 2.30 in the morning. Have we got a four-hour tape so I can see it. Please... Dad?"

The momentary high spirits, occasioned by the embrace, plummeted somewhat. A sinking feeling set in at the sacrifice that the memory of an England-Wales match, for goodness sake, should be so summarily dismissed. Twickenham, by its location, hardly mattered to him, but the preparations were well in hand for a game, so foreign to our sporting culture, was now enthusiastically anticipated.

But to the child's gush and unbridled imagination seems to be a mumbled imagination. Not much to savour for an old man's prejudice, either. Certainly not of the kind you wish to carry round in your pocket beyond the next day.

The boy, being a pretty determined fellow, you understand, already had his imitation Welsh jersey (with feathers) and the other paraphernalia. This Christmas, though, he wanted a grid-iron helmet. The vest he already had, but represents his favourite San Francisco Forty-niners, so he tells me, amid the other, to me, unintelligible statistics. You get the drift that he is by no means a fan of the finer vision of an A-team culture in the corner, more than a little partial to this sweeping and addictive phenomenon.

In its edited form, it is a colourful pageant. It has style and seems to be a lot of fun. And there are lots of touch-downs. But the sport-sport might say, the real game is not like that. Televisationally, the lens zooms in on the highlights. Yes... quite so. But how much more of the last weekend's international matches in which 17 penalties were kicked, to the real spirit of rugby football. And which one of them inspires a fertile imagination?

These lines and gestures were of a kind which would have created the memories of a kind which penalties, apart from Andrew's first, can rarely inspire. But the laws, not necessarily the correct interpretation of them, contribute to blunt the edge and stifle ambition. The game's potential remains frustratingly unrealized.

And if that is my son in this random double-handed survey, what

More football, page 22

These lines and gestures were of a kind which would have created the memories of a kind which penalties, apart from Andrew's first, can rarely inspire. But the laws, not necessarily the correct interpretation of them, contribute to blunt the edge and stifle ambition. The game's potential remains frustratingly unrealized.

And if that is my son in this random double-handed survey, what

More football, page 22

Time running short for solution to tin crisis

When the 22 members of the board and committee of the London Metal Exchange gather today they will be painfully aware that it is up to three months to the day since the International Tin Council withdrew from the market and the exchange was forced to suspend tin trading.

Those three months have been the most extraordinary episode in the modern history of commodity markets. An international body, set up 30 years ago by treaty between 22 member states, has squabbled within itself and with its creditors over gross debts of £900 million.

So serious, convoluted and even anarchic have the divisions been during the longest closure of any commodity market since the Second World War that it would be a brave broker or banker who said the end was in sight.

The issue, as Mr Jacques Lion, chairman of the LME board has stressed from the beginning, is the sanctity of contract. If 22 countries can collectively avoid all or part of their commercial debts, what security is there for readers?

The LME was much the highest trader in the tin market. At least 13 LME brokers - half the exchange's membership - have positions with the LME as sellers to it, buyers from it, or both.

When the buffer stock ab-

ruptly ceased operations nobody was sure of what it had left behind. The LME secretary was forced to call in outside auditors, Peat Marwick Mitchell.

What the auditors found horrified the most alarmed broker. The LME had forward contracts to buy more than 67,000 tonnes of tin before the end of this month. It had stocks of almost 53,000 tonnes. Against this it had sales commitments of more than 70,000 tonnes, of which 30,000 were undated and unpaid contracts running to 1987. On top of the tin mountain, the LME had borrowed £350 million from a group of 14 banks and brokers.

These huge quantities mattered because the LME's withdrawal from the market would have caused a collapse of the price had the LME not suspended trading. The day before the suspension, tin was trading at £8,140. Recent informal deals have been done at below £5,000.

But the LME's purchase contracts would have been priced at more than £8,000. If the LME therefore squared its position - sold and bought all its commitments - at an average price of £5,000 it would lose £263 million. And that would not be the end of the story. The LME would be left

with stocks of just under 50,000 tonnes.

Selling these stocks might reduce the shortfall to £160 million. It would, however, cause chaos in a market already oversupplied with tin. Mines would close - 8,000 miners have been laid off in Malaysia - and several metal brokers with contracts with the LME could be bankrupted.

For a month now the LME has been studying a plan out forward by Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, and Mr Ralph Kestevenbaum, managing director of Gerald Metals. The plan is to set up a new company, capitalized with £200 million of equity from the LME members, £70 million from the banks and brokers, and a £50 million loan from the British Government.

Newco, as it has become known, would take on all the LME's obligations. The buffer stock would be wound up, although the LME might continue as a substantial body. Banks and brokers deeply resent being forced to pay part of the LME's debts, and the LME is still suggesting that its contribution should be lower. But as more and more contracts fall due and legal actions between brokers and clients become more frequent, time is very short.

Michael Prest

Golden Virginia

CASTELLA

WELLCOME

REGAL KING SIZE

Famous brands doing famously

IMPERIAL GROUP

Kronenbourg 1664

SEVEN SEAS

ANCHOR HOTELS

This advertisement is published by Imperial Bank Limited, on behalf of the Imperial Group plc. The directors of the Imperial Group plc, (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed hereon are fair and accurate. The directors accept responsibility accordingly.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stunned League are left to look for new sponsor

By Keith Mackinn

The Rugby League is looking for a new sponsor after yesterday's unexpected announcement that Matthew Brown, brewer of Blackburn, the chairman of the league, will end their sponsorship of the championship and Premiership this season. The sponsorship, which has produced £500,000 in six years...

Goodwin is called in for Allen

By Joyce Whitehead

There is one change to the women's England B squad selected earlier this month from which the last five players of the England senior party will be chosen in February. Mary Allen (Warwickshire) has been named as the fifth of the five international school tournaments will take place in the Midlands...

Bullets pull out of Masters

By Nicholas Harling

Birmingham Bullets, whose coach Art Ross, is appealing against a two-match ban, face further disciplinary action from the English Basketball Association after their withdrawal from the British Masters tournament at the quarter-final stage...

Phipps's fastest time

From Chris Moore, Igis

One of the impressive monopolies looks like being maintained in this weekend's European bobsleigh championships four man events here. Between them the Swiss and the East Germans have won 20 of the last 21 medals at this elite European four man competition since 1978...

IN BRIEF

Bond evens the score

Perth, (Reuter) - Australia's main candidate to defend yachting's premier trophy, the America's Cup, have made tonight for the first time. The modified two race series pitted the syndicate of multi-millionaire Alan Bond, the cup holder, against the British syndicate of another tycoon, Kevin Parry...

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Tophams Taverns to take command

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

There is no more open race today than the grade two Rossington Main Novices Hurdle at Doncaster, which with £6,250 added to the stakes has attracted a field to match the bait. I believe that at least nine of the 15 runners are in with a chance, but none more so than Tophams Taverns whose form overall has the field beat...

Doncaster

Going good

1.30 SANDALL BEAT NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (€1,450: 2m 150yd) (14 runners) 1.30 SANDALL BEAT NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (€1,450: 2m 150yd) (14 runners) 1.30 SANDALL BEAT NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (€1,450: 2m 150yd) (14 runners)

Doncaster selections

By Mandarin

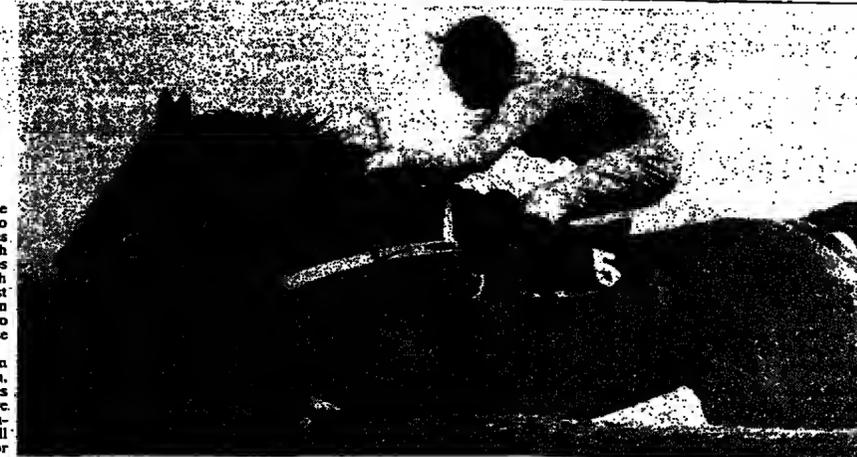
1.30 Handylad, 2.0 Airkan, 2.30 Tophams Taverns, 3.0 Eton Rouge, 3.30 Premier Charlie, 4.0 Jobrock. 2.0 SELBY SELLING HURDLE (€1,158: 2m 41) (11) 1.4-4 HOWLEY LODGE (€2) M. Phipps 8-11-7 M. Dwyer 2.0-2 HOWLEY LODGE (€2) M. Phipps 8-11-7 M. Dwyer

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

RACING: PIPE AND PITMAN LOOK BOOKED FOR DOUBLES AT WINCANTON



Cybrandian, Peter Easterby's Gold Cup hope, is back in action at Doncaster today after a 14 months lay-off.

Banker could turn out to be a greater threat to Tophams Taverns following those emphatic victories at Uttoxeter and Haydock. Rule of the Sea, who has won his last three races, also comes into the reckoning, but I fancy stepping stone en route to Cheltenham, and a crack at the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices Hurdle.

Doncaster

Going good

1.30 SANDALL BEAT NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (€1,450: 2m 150yd) (14 runners) 1.30 SANDALL BEAT NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (€1,450: 2m 150yd) (14 runners) 1.30 SANDALL BEAT NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (€1,450: 2m 150yd) (14 runners)

Doncaster selections

By Mandarin

1.30 Handylad, 2.0 Airkan, 2.30 Tophams Taverns, 3.0 Eton Rouge, 3.30 Premier Charlie, 4.0 Jobrock. 2.0 SELBY SELLING HURDLE (€1,158: 2m 41) (11) 1.4-4 HOWLEY LODGE (€2) M. Phipps 8-11-7 M. Dwyer 2.0-2 HOWLEY LODGE (€2) M. Phipps 8-11-7 M. Dwyer

Versatile Canio graduates in style



Canio, a fluent scorer on the Flat and over hurdles in the past, graduated to success over the bigger jumps with a smooth tea lengths victory over Vanter Boy in the Baron Blakeney novices chase at Wincanton yesterday.

Canio, a fluent scorer on the Flat and over hurdles in the past, graduated to success over the bigger jumps with a smooth tea lengths victory over Vanter Boy in the Baron Blakeney novices chase at Wincanton yesterday. The winner of the 15 starters completed the course and it biggest threat to Canio came at the sixth from home, where the leader Tophams Taverns was edged out by Canio in a very clever and athletic jumper and skilfully kept himself out of trouble.

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Huntingdon



Canio, a fluent scorer on the Flat and over hurdles in the past, graduated to success over the bigger jumps with a smooth tea lengths victory over Vanter Boy in the Baron Blakeney novices chase at Wincanton yesterday.

Canio, a fluent scorer on the Flat and over hurdles in the past, graduated to success over the bigger jumps with a smooth tea lengths victory over Vanter Boy in the Baron Blakeney novices chase at Wincanton yesterday. The winner of the 15 starters completed the course and it biggest threat to Canio came at the sixth from home, where the leader Tophams Taverns was edged out by Canio in a very clever and athletic jumper and skilfully kept himself out of trouble.

Huntingdon

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Huntingdon

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Taunton



Canio, a fluent scorer on the Flat and over hurdles in the past, graduated to success over the bigger jumps with a smooth tea lengths victory over Vanter Boy in the Baron Blakeney novices chase at Wincanton yesterday.

Canio, a fluent scorer on the Flat and over hurdles in the past, graduated to success over the bigger jumps with a smooth tea lengths victory over Vanter Boy in the Baron Blakeney novices chase at Wincanton yesterday. The winner of the 15 starters completed the course and it biggest threat to Canio came at the sixth from home, where the leader Tophams Taverns was edged out by Canio in a very clever and athletic jumper and skilfully kept himself out of trouble.

Taunton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Taunton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Today's course specialists

Wincanton TRAINERS: M. H. Mason 18 winners from 55 runners, 27.3% M. Lamberton 8 from 44, 18.2% J. JOCKEYS: R. Earmshaw 8 winners from 30 rides, 26.7% G. Brown 5 from 25, 20.0% P. Scudamore 6 from 28, 21.4% Wincanton TRAINERS: M. H. Mason 18 winners from 55 runners, 27.3% M. Lamberton 8 from 44, 18.2% J. JOCKEYS: R. Earmshaw 8 winners from 30 rides, 26.7% G. Brown 5 from 25, 20.0% P. Scudamore 6 from 28, 21.4%

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Wincanton

Going soft

1.15 CRAFTSMAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,773: 2m) (10 runners) 1.15 COUNTY STONE (€2) J. Thorne 9-10-9 K. Moorey 2.21 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray 3.000 ATTHANDS (€2) M. Phipps 10-10-12 D. Gray

Legal in-fighting could block Graham and let Sibson in

By Srikanth Sen Boxing Correspondent
A legal wrangle that could break out between Frank Warren, the London promoter, and B. Eastwood, the manager of Herol Graham, could not only stop Graham's challenge for Ayub Kalule's European middleweight championship on February 5 at Sheffield but also force Kalule to put his title up against Tony Sibson, of Leicester, Graham's arch-rival.



Graham: his next contest could be in court

Warren claimed yesterday that he had a contract for Sibson to defend his Commonwealth title against Kalule at Monte Carlo on February 26 which blocked all other contests within 28 days of the bout. Warren said that even the European Boxing Union would not be able to carry out their threat to strip Kalule of his title for not meeting Graham at Sheffield on February 5.

Rhodes and Cook in the limelight as match fades out

Colombo (Reuters) - Wicket-keeper Steve Rhodes hit his second 50 of the match yesterday in enable England to declare their second innings at 121 for five against Sri Lanka 240 to win on the final day of their four-day match which ended in a draw with Sri Lanka scoring 101 for four.

N Zealand win in tight finish

Melbourne. (Reuters) - A dashing 67 from Martin Crowe, who was well supported by consistent batting from his colleagues, gave New Zealand a thrilling five-wicket victory with one ball to spare in the World Series Cup one-day match against India here yesterday.

CAR BUYERS' GUIDE Trade 01-837 2916 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311
Rolls-Royce and Bentley
ATTENTION ROLLS ROYCE OWNERS
Journalist researching the subject wishes to learn from Rolls Royce owners who are dissatisfied with their cars or servicing.

ROLLS ROYCE - IN THE MIDLANDS (80) Silver Wrath, £18,995, (78) Shadow, low mile, £17,995, (77) Shadow II, 38 miles, £15,995, (78) Shadow, white, £12,995, (78) Shadow 63 miles, £12,995, (78) Shadow 63 miles, £12,995, (78) Shadow 63 miles, £12,995.

ROLLS-ROYCE SHADOW II 1976 Excellent condition. Well maintained. Gold colour. 65,000 miles. Best offer over £10,000. Tel 081-228 2842, Mr Deignan

ROLLS ROYCE SILVER SHADOW II Registered 1978. Excellent condition. 65,000 miles. Best offer over £11,000. Day: 0642 488106 Even: 0642 806752

73 SHADOW Private Reg. excellent condition. 28,000. Shadow 0 forces sale. Private sale. EASTLING 308

ROLLS ROYCE SILVER SHADOW 1972. Light blue with dark blue interior. Excellent condition. 28,000. Private sale. 024 975. Phone 0462 814624.

71 SHADOW Silver grey. £4.5. 70,000 miles. Excellent condition. 28,000. Private sale. 024 975. Phone 0462 814624.

JULIANS OF READING FOR JAGUAR
CALL ANDREW JARVIS ON 0734 585011 MON-SAT
JAGUAR 4.2 VANDEN PLAS
SER III AUTO Red 1983 V reg VGC. low mileage £13,995. Tel 0820 821 360 evens or 07072 71111 day.

DAIMLER 4.2 VANDEN PLAS SER III AUTO Red 1983 V reg VGC. low mileage £13,995. Tel 0820 821 360 evens or 07072 71111 day.

MARK 10 JAGUAR, 1964. Dark metallic. 27,000 miles. Excellent condition. 28,000. Private sale. 024 975. Phone 0462 814624.

QUATTRO CENTRE Best models available for immediate delivery. Also for sale the following used cars: 1985 L reg. Audi 200 Diesel. 20,000 miles. 1985 L reg. Audi 200 Diesel. 20,000 miles.

HWM offer 1986 (Model) Registered 18,125. Audi Quattro finished in Laguna green. 4th reg. condition. 5/11. 2000 miles. 1985 L reg. Audi 200 Diesel. 20,000 miles.

VW and Audi QUATTRO CENTRE Best models available for immediate delivery. Also for sale the following used cars: 1985 L reg. Audi 200 Diesel. 20,000 miles. 1985 L reg. Audi 200 Diesel. 20,000 miles.

Polonia pole-axed

The biggest upset of the season saw Polonia, the national league champions, crash out of the Royal Bank Cup at the quarter-final stage to Reading Town, the second division.

New sponsor found

The Badminton Association of England pulled off an outstanding promotional coup yesterday by announcing a sponsorship deal with Carlsberg, the Danish brewery company, little more than a week before the national championships are due to start.

The lure of one-day spectacles

From Ivo Tennant, Johannesburg. In South Africa, as elsewhere, one-day cricket is all the rage. The first of the 50 overs-a-side matches against the breakaway Australian cricket team in Johannesburg already has been sold.

Circuitous procedure over wards in care

Before Lord Justice Fox and Sir Rosalyn Carr, the Official Solicitor, [Judgment delivered January 22] Where a ward of court had been placed in the care of a local authority by an order of the High Court, the local authority was not under a duty to seek directions from the High Court before applying to the juvenile court for an order authorizing the local authority to place or keep the child in secure accommodation.

Queen's Bench Division

Arnold v Central Electricity Generating Board. Before Mr Michael Ogden, QC [Judgment delivered January 23] Section 2A(1) of the Limitation Act 1939 (inserted by section 1 of the Limitation Act 1975) included within its ambit actions brought in negligence by a claimant who had been injured by a defendant who had died of mesothelioma in May 1982.

Corroboration not needed

Regina v Olatoye. The evidence of a complainant in a case of rape affecting an older and infirm woman was sufficient to establish the general rule of corroboration. The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Watkins, Lord Justice Goff and Sir Ralph Gibson) so held on January 20 when dismissing an appeal by Jimmy Olatoye against his conviction at the Central Criminal Court (the Old Bailey) by a jury of aiding and abetting rape.

VW and Audi QUATTRO CENTRE Best models available for immediate delivery. Also for sale the following used cars: 1985 L reg. Audi 200 Diesel. 20,000 miles. 1985 L reg. Audi 200 Diesel. 20,000 miles.

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Toyota challenges the cheapest Porsche

Porsche Cars Great Britain goes from strength to strength. Except for a minor hiccup in 1984 caused by the two-month West German metal workers' strike, it has increased sales annually for the past eight years. Last year was the busiest and most important since the British offshoot was formed 20 years ago.

It moved to a new £11 million headquarters and import centre at Reading near to Junction 17 on the M4, sold a record 3,438 cars and introduced significant changes across the whole model range.

Porsche enthusiasts were understandably excited by the new 152 mph 944 turbo, but they positively drooled over the 911 turbo with sports equipment. It was the fastest and most expensive Porsche sold in Britain, with a top speed of 171 mph and cost a cool £17,935. But in my view by far the most significant new model for Porsche's continued growth was the new 924S, the "baby" of the range.

Surprisingly, the 924 is not the biggest seller. That position is held by the more expensive 944. But the 924 is the Porsche that weans buyers away from other makes. Some 75 per cent of 924 sales are captured from the competition and about a third of those buyers progress to a 944 when they change cars. A remarkable two thirds of Porsche owners buy another Porsche.

Last year two significant developments took place with the arrival of the new 924S. It came of age at last by acquiring a real Porsche engine instead of a modified Audi unit - the car itself is still assembled by Audi at Neckarsulm - and its UK price shot up by an alarming £2,726 to £14,984.

Porsche acknowledged that such a substantial price hike for its cheapest car was a gamble. Many of the competition, notably the Japanese, are pushing aggressively into traditional Porsche territory with cheaper high-performance models. Will the price gap be too

large? Will the 924 no longer win from strength to strength? Porsche says there is no evidence of sales resistance yet, but concedes that it is too early to reach any meaningful conclusions.

In the meantime I have been sampling the new 924 and must say immediately that, in addition to the extra performance from the slightly de-tuned version of the 944 2.5 litre four-cylinder engine, changes to the suspension and wider tyres have made a significant improvement in handling. Its predecessor would understeer when driven hard. The new one turns into sharp corners as if on rails and still keeps plenty of rubber in contact with the road.

Straight-line steering at speed also seems to be that bit more arrowlike necessary to handle a top speed of over 130 mph. Its ability to shrug off side-force side winds was particularly impressive, as was the improved quietness.

Vital statistics:

Model: Porsche 924S. Price: £14,984. Engine: 2479 cc four cylinder. Performance: 0-62 mph, 8.5 secs; max speed 130 mph. Official consumption: urban, 23 mpg; 56 mpg, 46.3 mpg; 75 mph, 34.9 mpg. Length: 13.8 feet. Insurance: group 8.

But most surprising of all was the amount of grip and stable-handling available on roads recently affected by ice and snow. That must be a direct result of the excellent weight distribution obtained by mounting the five-speed gearbox between the independently-sprung rear wheels and driving them via a transaxle system.

It has to be accepted that the 924S is really a two-seater sports car with minuscule rear seats. They really are impossible for adults and only marginally acceptable for growing children. The hatchback luggage space is rather shallow, but because the rear screen is markedly



Porsche 924S: Improved performance and handling

bow-shaped it will take surprisingly large packages. A roller-blind cover can be pulled into position to cover the contents from prying eyes.

Toyota "Porsche"

One of the leading rivals of the Porsche 924S must be Toyota's all new Celica 2+2. It is certainly one of the handsomest coupes around today, and an outstanding example of how to harness a powerful engine to front-wheel drive without the handling problems normally associated with that layout.

The Celica is a bigger car - about seven inches longer than the Porsche - and much more fully equipped. At £11,999 it shows a saving of nearly £3,000 over the rather sparsely equipped German car (no central locking). How's this for a lineup of standard fittings - electric sunroof, electric windows and mirrors, central locking, remote control tailgate and fuel flap releases, air conditioning, dashboard fault monitoring system, rear wiper, radio-cassette player with four speakers, electric aerial, height, rake and fore and aft adjustment for the driver's seat, and a steering wheel adjusting for height and reach?

Gilding the lily does not compensate for shortcomings on the road. The old rear-wheel drive Celica would still have been disastrously short of Porsche appeal. Not so the newcomer. It does have some minor faults, but as a package I believe it to be the most refined and European Toyota to reach these shores.

The two-litre, fuel injected 16-valve alloy-head engine has already made a big impression on keen drivers in the Corolla GT car. It produces a robust 147 hp that helps it to come within an ace of the 924's 8.5 second time from 0-62 mph.

The all-round disc brakes are powerful and light to operate, and, combined with Toyota's latest anti-diver, anti-lift geometry, do their work without fuss.

But by far the most impressive aspect is the total absence of the confidence-shattering torque steer which so often accompanies fierce acceleration in a powerful front-wheel drive car, and throws it momentarily off line.

The reasons are somewhat complex, but in brief the Japanese engineers appear to have solved the problem by using very stiff equal length drive shafts, much tougher engine mounts and reinforced suspension joints.

The ride is good on the whole, although it does become a bit choppy on worn suburban roads.

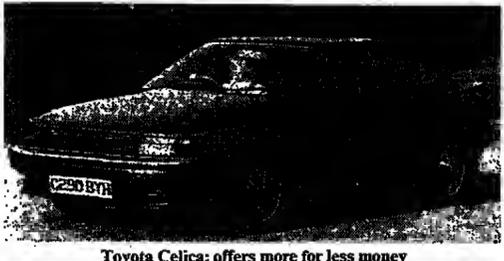
Vital statistics:

Model: Toyota 2.0 GT. Price: £11,999. Engine: 1998 cc. fuel injected four-cylinder. Performance: 0-60 mph 8.7 secs; max speed 131 mph. Official consumption: urban, 28.8 mpg; 58 mph, 47.9 mpg; 75 mph, 37.6 mpg. Length: 14.3 feet. Insurance: Group 7.

My chief complaint against the Celica is the power-steering. It is just that fraction too light and too direct for my taste, although by the end of a week I was beginning to come to terms with it. Perhaps if I had not switched straight from the rock-steady steering of the 924 I would not have noticed it at all.

The rear seats are restricted but not as badly as those in the Porsche. Boot space is much deeper and more accommodating.

As a driving machine, pure and simple, I prefer the Porsche, but for everyday transport and heavily-loaded weekend golf trips I would have to settle for the Celica. Overall it offers more for less money.



Toyota Celica: offers more for less money

Rolls-Royce and Bentley Authorized Dealers

Weybridge Automobiles

1982 Rolls-Royce Camille Continental... 1981 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit... 1981 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow... 1978 (7) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow... Contact (0332) 48225 or Sunday (0252) 837453

SWINDON AUTOMOBILES offers... SWINDON AUTOMOBILES offers... SWINDON AUTOMOBILES offers... SWINDON AUTOMOBILES offers... SWINDON AUTOMOBILES offers...

Collectors cars

OWNER FROM his collection... FABULOUS white Jensen... TYPE A.2 1970... TRIMMED 1978... JAGUAR 3.8 MK II 1965... USABLE MILEAGE from new... 1978 BUICK REGAL... 81-7700... NOVER 3.5 1978... 1982 MONDIALE... 1982 MONDIALE...

BMW

Milcars logo and text: STANMORE (01-951 1300) WOODFIELD HOUSE, HONEYPOLE LANE, STANMORE, MIDDX. 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather... 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather... 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather...

RADLETT 09276 4802 74-76 WAITING STREET, RADLETT, HERTS. 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather... 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather... 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather...

MILL HILL 01-959 6961 15-18 HALE LANE, MILL HILL, NW7. 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather... 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather... 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather...

LONDON AND HERTFORDSHIRE'S LEADING BMW DEALER. 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather... 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather... 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather...

Holland Park Where service comes naturally. LONDON'S NEW BMW DEALERSHIP. 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather... 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather... 1981 720 SE Auto, black, peak leather...

First Front Approved Used BMWs. NEW BMW'S AVAILABLE FOR 1, 2 or 3 YEAR CONTRACT... BMW 318... BMW 318... BMW 318...

BMW M635 CS Coupé. Manual air cond rear headrests, full sports, leather trim, bronze, August 1985 C reg, vgc 5,000 miles £28,500... BMW 320... BMW 320... BMW 320...

Motors wanted Car hire. 380 SL 1981 (W) Air con, elec sun roof, stereo... 944 Lux Auto 1984 (8) 1 owner, 57000, pmt, stereo, 27,000, beige leather, trim, alloy wheels; £14,850... RANGE ROVER HIRE All new model... Registration numbers 32 GLL 1983 AAO...

CAR BUYERS' GUIDE Trade 01-837 2916 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

Mercedes Benz ALAN DAY MERCEDES-BENZ. COME TO OUR HUGE SHOWROOM WITH 50 MERCEDES-BENZ ON DISPLAY - HERE IS A SELECTION FROM OUR STOCK... 500 SL 2.5L... 500 SL 2.5L... 500 SL 2.5L...

SIMPSON'S GARAGES (BEXLEY) LTD. 280 SE 2.000 miles, Astral Silver, stereo, Daimler V12 Coupé 1978, White/Red, 39,000 miles, GM auto gearbox... 380 SL (84 A) Red, black interior, alloy cruise... 500 SEL 84A 14,000 miles, all used extras...

Bradshaw & Webb. 280 SE 2.000 miles, Astral Silver, stereo, Daimler V12 Coupé 1978, White/Red, 39,000 miles, GM auto gearbox... 380 SL (84 A) Red, black interior, alloy cruise... 500 SEL 84A 14,000 miles, all used extras...

Mercedes 280CE 1983 Mercedes 280CE, full leather, alloy wheels, 11,000 miles... 280 TE Auto Dec '82, Mid green, 11,000 miles... 1983 Mercedes 280 SL, 11,000 miles... 1983 Mercedes 280 SL, 11,000 miles...

Porsche 911 Carrera Sport Coupé 1983A 35,000 miles, Guards Red, Full A.S.N. Service history... 1983 911 Carrera Sport red black... 1983 911 Carrera Sport red black... 1983 911 Carrera Sport red black...

General SAAB SAAB TURBO 165 6 reg, black, leather seats, 16 month warranty... SAAB 900 GL, Oct 85, A reg, 26,000 miles... SAAB 900 TURBO APC 6 door, sun roof, A reg, Nov '85, £7,100... SAAB 900 TURBO APC 6 door, sun roof, A reg, Nov '85, £7,100...

General Personal Imports Save 22% on most makes - All cars - R.H.O. factory built... Personal Imports Save 22% on most makes - All cars - R.H.O. factory built... Personal Imports Save 22% on most makes - All cars - R.H.O. factory built...

General Renault 5 Renault 5 Mid Engine Turbo 2 210 OHB, Brand new, 800 miles... Renault 5 Mid Engine Turbo 2 210 OHB, Brand new, 800 miles... Renault 5 Mid Engine Turbo 2 210 OHB, Brand new, 800 miles...

Three Britons die in Delhi hotel inferno

By Our Foreign Staff

A fire swept through the lower floors of a Delhi luxury hotel yesterday killing 38 people, including three Britons and two foreign diplomats.

Police said at least 45 people were injured in the early-morning blaze, many of them guests who escaped from the 10-storey building in their nightclothes, some by sliding down knotted sheets.

Two of the British victims were engineers employed by the Manchester-based company, Allott and Lomax, who were on a two-week business trip to India. They were identified as John Medland, aged 42, married, from Wilmslow, Cheshire, and Thomas Pinkey, aged 36, father of three, from Sale, Greater Manchester.

Mr David Compton, a director of the firm, who confirmed the identities, said: "Both were senior members of staff and were very popular. Everyone here is horrified."

The third Briton killed was Michael Woolgar, aged 33, a business executive from Stratton, near Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire. He was married with an 18-month-old son and worked for rubber manufacturers BTR Silvertown Ltd. He was on an 18-day sales trip to India and was due back in Britain next Tuesday.

A British High Commission spokesman in Delhi said a further 10 Britons escaped the blaze.

Delhi police said 17 of the 22 foreign victims had been identified, including the three Britons, two Australians, a Japanese, a Bulgarian, a Russian, an American, an Iraqi and diplomats for West Germany and Argentina.

The fire broke out after midnight in the basement banquet hall of the Siddharth Continental hotel and gutted the three lower floors, sending black smoke pouring through lift shafts and ventilators. It spread quickly and was brought under control after more than six hours by 250 firefighters and 65 fire engines.

The Delhi police chief, Mr Uday Marwah, said arson was suspected. The investigation was handed over to an anti-terrorist cell set up in the capital recently, chiefly aimed against Sikh militants. There was no immediate arrest.

Police are also investigating reports by survivors that the hotel's sprinkler system and fire alarm did not work. There were at least 185 guests sleeping in



The damaged facade of the Siddharth Continental.



Knotted sheets illustrate the guests' escape route. Right, the Thompson family who survived.

their rooms when the fire started. The injured also included eight firemen and seven policemen.

Fire officials said bodies were found right up to the top floor of the four-year-old hotel. Two people were burnt to death and the rest suffocated.

The two diplomats among the dead were Juan Javier Rioaldini, minister at the Argentine Embassy, and Gunther Gerlack of West Germany who had just arrived in India.

Frau Gerlack was also found dead, and the wife of the Argentine diplomat is in critical condition in hospital.

'Chaos, panic and smoke everywhere'

A British survivor described yesterday how he fought through dense smoke with his wife and two-year-old daughter to reach a fire escape and scramble to safety.

"I was awake and heard shouting from other guests and saw smoke coming through the door," Mr Brian Thompson, aged 32, from Liverpool, said. He was staying on the eighth floor of the hotel with his pregnant wife, Karina, and daughter, Canya.

"We wrapped wet towels

around our heads and ran towards the fire exit. There was chaos, and panic with smoke everywhere. We could see flames out of the window.

"We found our way to the exit and the staff were very good, ushering people down. The fire engines seemed to take ages to get there," said Mr Thompson who had stopped in Delhi on his way from Afghanistan to Thailand.

Another survivor, British company executive Mr D. C.

Bessey, told the Press Trust of India: "I wrapped a wet towel round my head and groped my way through dark corridors to reach the fire escape."

British businessman George Allen said he escaped suffocation because he and three colleagues had prised open locked windows with spanners a few days earlier.

"We were sleeping and suddenly woke up after smelling smoke... we ran and ran and finally came out of the hotel", one foreign couple said.

Peres steps up pressure on Husain to drop PLO

Continued from page 1

Yesterday he had talks with opposition leaders, MPs and Mr Leon Brittan, the Secretary for Trade and Industry, and was entertained to lunch at The Times.

According to Israeli sources King Husain, who held talks in London with Mr Murphy and Mrs Thatcher immediately before Mr Peres' arrival, intends to give Mr Arafat one last chance to accept the three conditions which he laid down for PLO representation in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for direct talks with Israel.

These conditions are intended to provide the Jordanian monarch with firm guarantees that the PLO would be committed to negotiating a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli problem on the basis of UN Security Council resolution 242.

The Israelis are virtually certain Mr Arafat will not accept. The king will then try to find alternative Palestinians to join his team, possibly from among West Bank leaders or Palestinian members of the Jordanian Parliament.

The Israelis are being careful not to identify which Palestinians they would find acceptable. Although not prepared to accept PLO members, they would not reject Palestinians with close links to the PLO.

In his speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs on Wednesday Mr Peres deliberately made a number of conciliatory references towards the Palestinians.

Reiterating Israel's commitment to grant full autonomy to the people of the West Bank and Gaza, he said an accord would "facilitate Palestinian self-expression".

Mr Peres and Mr Murphy have now reached the point of discussing the fine detail of what shape direct talks between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation might take, as well as the format of an international conference to set the talks in motion.

Mrs Thatcher has accepted an invitation to go to Israel, although no dates have yet been fixed. She will be the first prime minister to visit the Jewish state while in office.

Leading article, page 13
Tough budget, page 7

Untaxed afterlife in the dead zone

Letter from Cyprus

Pyla is in the "dead zone" but it should have come back to life years ago. It does, after all, boast a population of 1,300, two schools, two churches, a mosque and a once-a-month meeting between the Greek mayor and the Turkish mukhtar. It is the only village in Cyprus where through a geographical freak the 1974 Turkish invasion - Greek and Turkish Cypriots still live together.

It should be a showpiece hamlet, a model mixed community for the new federal Cyprus about which both President Kyprianou and Mr Denktas, the Turkish leader, speak so interminably. But it is not.

True, the Greek Cypriots indulge in a little illegal gambling in the Turkish Cypriot coffee shop because the Greek Cypriot police in plain clothes are not allowed into Turkish houses and because the Turkish-Cypriot police in plain clothes are not allowed to arrest Greeks in Pyla. True, the monstrosity figure of Pedros Rasiliou walks across from his Greek restaurant to shop at Nayer Celabi's Turkish grocery store where the whiskey imported from the Turkish Cypriot side of the ceasefire line is 65 cheaper than the scotch brought from the Greek Cypriot port of Larnaca.

Costas Medites, the precise Greek Mayor, and Mustafa Mehmet, the Turkish mukhtar, declare that they are friends. And down upon their little village from his wooden syria on the roof of Pedros' draughty cafe stands a young Swedish Army sergeant of the United Nations, which "polices" - if such a word has any meaning in Pyla - the lives of the 800 Greek Cypriots and 400 Turkish Cypriots who live there.

Pyla's recent history is a simple one. When the Turkish Army mapped out its Atilla Line at the end of its invasion of Cyprus, its forward troops stood on a little bluff above Pyla's ruined castle while the retreating Greeks clung to the barley fields on the other side of town. So, when the UN moved into the ceasefire line

between the two armies, they found Pyla still intact, its population still living modestly together, just as it had done in the pre-war years. Being in the "dead zone", neither Greeks nor Turks could lay claim to it which is why Pyla has no town hall, no court, no traffic police.

But appearances can be deceptive. If Mr Medites speaks cordially about his Turkish neighbour, you don't have to question him for long before his mood changes. The Turks, he announces, don't pay for the electricity and the water and the rubbish collection but they don't pay anything, why not?

Across the square at Nayer Celabi's grocery store, her husband Rifat, who drives the Turkish bus to Famagusta, supplies his own answer. "Before 1974, all of us Turks were harassed and intimidated by the Greeks. Their young men had guns and stopped us at road blocks. Then they took over our cooperative and took our savings. If the Turkish Army was not in the hill above us, we would leave today. No, we don't pay taxes - we will when there's a settlement. Maybe my son will have to pay one day. Maybe his grandson will pay for electricity. Not me."

Other economic factors govern Pyla. Its unique position allows smugglers to move cheap goods - drinks, packaged foods, sports clothes, fruits and vegetables - through the Turkish Army lines, into Pyla and then down the narrow Larnaca road.

One hundred yards down the lane to Larnaca, Erdinc Alnar is teaching 29 Turkish primary schoolchildren in a little stone classroom which has a Turkish flag on its roof. He has no problems with the Greeks, he says. But on the classroom walls are stern portraits of Kemal Ataturk and an old exhortation from the founder of the modern mainland Turkish state. "A Turk's first duty is to defend his nation", it says, which is not likely to induce anyone to pay his telephone bill.

Robert Fisk

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibition
The Photographic Art: satellite exhibition. Assembly Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh: Mon to Sat 11 to 10pm, Sun 12 to 10pm (ends Feb 8).

Music
Concert by Capricorn Theatre, Liverpool University, 7.30.
Concert by the Coull String Quartet, Newton Abbot Community Centre, 8.
Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Great Hall, Exeter University, 7.30.
Concert by the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Guildhall, Southampton, 8.

Talks, lectures
Wild knitting, by Shirley Caine.

From Al to Medway: photographs by Paul Graham; Raunsgate Library Gallery, Guildford Lane: Mon to Wed 9.30 to 6, Thurs to Sat 9.30 to 5, Fri 9.30 to 6, closed Sun (ends Feb 12).

Pollok Park Local Plan; Burrell Collection (ends Feb 2); The Age of Oak (ends Jan 30); Burrell Collection, Pollok Country Park, Glasgow: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5.
Paintings and watercolours by Philip Wilson Steer; Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington St, Cambridge: Tues to Sat 10 to 2 and 2 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon (ends March 3).

Wales and West MS: Only one lane available southbound between junctions 25 and 26 (Taunton and Wellington); hard shoulder and any lights on Brautoun Rd and Newport Rd, Barnstaple, A499: Roadworks on the Caernarfon to Pwllheli road between Llanwnda and Clyffyllon, Gwynedd.
The North MS: Various lane closures for bridge repairs at junction 32, South Yorkshire, A66: Resurfacing between Mount Pleasant Farm and Grete Bridge, Co Durham; temporary lights, A1: Both outside lanes closed on Agricola Bridge (Catterick bypass), widening on central reservation.
Scotland: A72: Single lane traffic and temporary lights (24 hours) between junction 3 of the M74 (Larkhall interchange) and Barrion Bridge on the A71, Lanarkshire, A7: Single lane traffic between Sam and 4pm six miles.

Exhibitions in progress

Wales and West MS: Only one lane available southbound between junctions 25 and 26 (Taunton and Wellington); hard shoulder and any lights on Brautoun Rd and Newport Rd, Barnstaple, A499: Roadworks on the Caernarfon to Pwllheli road between Llanwnda and Clyffyllon, Gwynedd.

The North MS: Various lane closures for bridge repairs at junction 32, South Yorkshire, A66: Resurfacing between Mount Pleasant Farm and Grete Bridge, Co Durham; temporary lights, A1: Both outside lanes closed on Agricola Bridge (Catterick bypass), widening on central reservation.

Scotland: A72: Single lane traffic and temporary lights (24 hours) between junction 3 of the M74 (Larkhall interchange) and Barrion Bridge on the A71, Lanarkshire, A7: Single lane traffic between Sam and 4pm six miles.

Food prices

Supplies of excellent quality fish should be available everywhere this week due to improved weather conditions. Herring, mackerel, sprats and sardines are particularly good in the south, lemon soles better in the north and Midlands. Nationally, cod steaks or fillets are the best buy. The average price of large cod fillets stable at £1.73 a lb, haddock fillets at £1.77, colley 91p, whiting £1.31, plaice down 3p to £1.91 and fresh mackerel 63p a lb. Smoked mackerel is unchanged at 99p, but kippers are up slightly at 97p.

Home produced lamb prices continued their upward trend and all cuts are up by a penny or two a lb. Whole leg ranges from £1.50 to £1.94 a lb, loin chops £1.68 to £2.10, middle neck 66p to £1 and whole shoulder 88p to £1.20 a lb. New Zealand lamb leg is down slightly to an average of £1.42 a lb, joint chops are £1.20 to £1.60, best cut chop 99p to £1.58, and shoulder at 59p to 94p a lb is better value.

Poultry is the best buy at most supermarkets and shops this week. Bejam, Shoppers Paradise, Sainsbury, Asda and Tesco all have frozen chickens on offer from 43p to 49p a lb, and Sainsbury has poussin for 99p each. Other good meat buys include Asda New Zealand leg of lamb £1.09, boning steak £1.39; Newmarket and Baxter New Zealand sides of lamb £10.99 each, whole shoulders 59p a lb. Bejam New Zealand leg of lamb 99p a lb, and pork chops at 95p a lb, Tesco boness rolled shoulder of pork 99p a lb.

Marmalade oranges are widely available now at 25p to 40p a lb. These bitter oranges, not suitable for eating raw, have a short season, and this year's crop is very good. Clementines are the best soft citrus buy. Avocado supplies have increased and this has brought the price down. Cominos and Comino peas, at 28p to 45p a lb, are excellent. Other good buys are Cape plums, Ruby Nels, Pickstones and Gaviotas 75-95p a lb. Potatoes 7p to 45p a lb, Boness sprouts 18p to 32p a lb, primo cabbage 10p to 20p a lb, and mushrooms 30p to 55p half pound are all good buys.

The best salad ingredients are tomatoes 34-55p a lb, excellent quality 30p to 45p a head, cucumber 45p to 66p, and new broccoli 15p to 20p a lb, cooked 28p to 35p a lb.

Top films

The top box-office films in London:
1 (1) A Chorus Line
2 (2) Back to the Future
3 (3) Kiss of the Spider Woman
4 (4) Death Wish 3
5 (5) Year of the Dragon
6 (6) Neverending Story
7 (7) Letter to Brezhnev
8 (8) Fire-Animator
9 (9) Flashy
10 (10) My Beautiful Laundrette

The top films in the provinces:
1 Back to the Future
2 Prizzi's Honour
3 Flashy
4 Letter to Brezhnev
5 Supergrass

Compiled by Screen International

Top video rentals

- 1 (1) Ghostbusters
- 2 (2) Beverly Hills Cop
- 3 (3) Beverly Hills Cop
- 4 (4) The Terminator
- 5 (5) Runaway
- 6 (6) The Last Starfighter
- 7 (7) Water
- 8 (8) Amadeus
- 10 (10) The Killing Fields

Supplied by Video Business

The pound

Country	Spot	Bank	Rate
Australia	1.52	1.52	1.52
Belgium	2.36	2.36	2.36
Denmark	12.46	12.46	12.46
France	6.55	6.55	6.55
Germany	2.36	2.36	2.36
Italy	1.36	1.36	1.36
Japan	162.25	162.25	162.25
Netherlands	2.36	2.36	2.36
Spain	166.25	166.25	166.25
Switzerland	2.36	2.36	2.36
USA	1.52	1.52	1.52

Parliament today

Communist (9.30): Obsolete Publications (Protection of Children; etc) (Amendment) Bill, second reading.

SNOW REPORTS

Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)
AUSTRIA			
Seefeld	80 140	good	powder good snow
St Anton	50 320	good	varied good snow
FRANCE			
Isola	80 100	good	heavy good cloud
La Plagne	150 190	good	fair good snow
Megève	180	good	fair good snow
Merzine	30 160	fair	heavy fair rain
SWITZERLAND			
Andematt	65 115	good	varied fair snow
Davos	110 170	good	varied good snow
Grindelwald	65 100	fair	heavy fair rain
Murren	100 120	good	varied good rain
Wengen	55 170	good	powder good snow

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. Other reports page 22.

Weather

A deep depression will become established with its centre near Denmark giving a strong flow over the country.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, NW, central N England, Midlands, Gwent, Wales: Sunny intervals with scattered showers, some heavy with snow or sleet in places; wind S or NW fresh to strong cold, max temp 5C (41F).

East Angles, E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee: Sunny intervals with showers of snow or sleet, heavy and prolonged at times, especially near coasts; winds N, fresh to strong, locally gale, max temp 4C (39F).

Wales: Sunny intervals with showers, heavy at times; winds NW, fresh to strong locally gale at times; max temp 7C (45F).

N. Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals with showers of snow or sleet, heavy and prolonged at times, especially in exposed coastal or hilly areas; winds strong to gale, max temp 5C (41F).

Scotland, Central Highlands, Orkney, Shetlands: Mainly cloudy with showers of snow or sleet, heavy at times, with drifting in places; winds N, strong to gale, locally storm at first; max temp 3C (37F).

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind NW, veers gale to storm decreasing to gale, showers, visibility good; sea very rough. Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NW gale or severe gale decreasing to strong, showers; visibility good; sea very rough. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW strong to gale decreasing to moderate, showers; visibility good; sea very rough becoming moderate.

Lighting-up time
London 6.05 pm to 7.18 am
Bristol 6.15 pm to 7.28 am
Birmingham 6.05 pm to 7.18 am
Manchester 6.05 pm to 7.18 am
Preston 6.05 pm to 7.18 am

Yesterday
Temperatures at midday yesterday: a, cloud; f, fair; n, rain; s, sun.

London
Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 8C (46F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 6C (43F); humidity: 6 pm, 70 per cent; dew pt: 6 am to 7 pm, 6.5C; sun: 8 am to 6 pm, 4.2h; Bar: mean sea level, 9 pm, 1002.3 millibars, falling, 1.6C/100 ft = 25.3in.

Highest and lowest

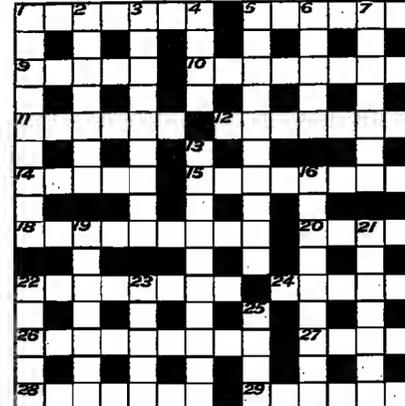
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Gwent, 11C (52F); lowest day temp: Liverpool, 3C (37F); highest night temp: Dublin, 15.5C (60F); lowest night temp: Newcastle upon Tyne, 6.5C.

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge will be lit today at approximately 1.40pm.

THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1986. All rights reserved. Printed and published by Times Newspapers Limited, P.O. Box 7, 200, Kingsway, London, W2 0AA. Tel: 01-235 7471. Friday January 24 1986. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,952



- ACROSS
- 1 It's marvellous to be put in a carriage with courtesy (7).
- 3 Communicated with various dailies (7).
- 9 Thunderer article names girl (5).
- 10 Oxford inhabitant oscillates wildly (4,5).
- 11 Two engineers put things right (6).
- 12 Lear was known to be so agreeable (3).
- 14 A university's beginning to study this poet (5).
- 15 Places for praying, or a political group (9).
- 18 No unseen cause for this anguish? (9).
- 20 Scrap producing dust up in mill (5).
- 21 It might well be called an outstanding talent (4,4).
- 24 Include £1 in capital for another (6).
- 26 Lure a king inside for a sail (9).
- 27 Colossal volley, or part of it (5).
- 28 Put out stories showing extreme optimism (7).
- 29 Soldier poet's courage (7).
- DOWN
- 1 Consequences of following a dull husband (9).
- 2 Part of the Yard's guard for criminal (7).
- 3 Sleeted head of republic (6,3).
- 4 You will no longer shout like this (4).
- 5 No profit on article like this (4,6).
- 6 Leaders of African country, coastal republic, are found here (5).
- 7 Nightingale's base, a rustic disingard (7).
- 8 Old copper on beat soundly stayed in place (5).
- 13 Unfair? Baseball certainly is! (3,7).
- 16 Start term in a slack period (3-6).
- 17 Had seat in Poplar, say? Useful for the cabinet (9).
- 19 Amnesty initially frees older relatives (7).
- 21 Astronomer one spotted in unnamed sailing-ship (7).
- 22 One who weeps, when beaten? (5).
- 23 Import substance (5).
- 25 Lightweight tot (4).

The solution of yesterday's qualifying puzzle, No 16,951 will appear on Monday, Feb 3